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# Europe's Gulf effort under fire from Thatcher

By NICHOLAS WOOD IN HELSINKI AND CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

THE prime minister yesterday rounded on Britain's European neighbours for their "minimum" response in the Gulf, while the Bush administration prepared to send a multi-million-dollar bill to its main allies to help to finance the American military operation.

Both moves were seen as a criticism of West Germany's failure to make more than a token contribution to the international effort to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

They came as efforts to find a diplomatic solution continued with the arrival in Amman of the UN secretary-general for talks with the Iraqi foreign minister, and as Western officials struggled with Iraqi bureaucracy to enable women and children who had been held hostage to go home.

It was also announced that Parliament would be recalled for a two-day debate on the crisis next week.

The decision to recall Parliament came shortly after Mrs Thatcher returned from her three-day visit to Finland, which ended with her attack on her fellow Europeans.

Without mentioning Germany by name, she criticised the "slow and patchy" military response to the invasion and said it was sad that at such a critical time, Europe had not fully measured up to expectations.

"The only countries that have done significantly more than the minimum are Britain and France."

Europe could not expect the United States to carry on as the "world's policeman" unless it got a "positive and swift response" from its allies when

the crunch came. The prime minister accepts that Germany's constitution restricts its ability to commit forces outside the Nato area, but she believes it could be making a big financial contribution towards the costs of the operation and to compensate countries that stand to lose most from the sanctions.

America moved to rectify that with its donor plan, under which Germany and other wealthy countries including

to leave Iraq since President Saddam Hussein said Western women and children were free to go arrived in Amman. May Brakat, aged 17, who had gone on holiday to Baghdad "to get a tan", said she was happy and relieved to have got out.

Other hostages are expected to have to wait until the weekend to leave as officials grapple with Iraqi red tape. The British embassy in Baghdad has been asked to collect passports from those who want to go home, so they can be stamped with exit visas.

The Foreign Office said troops still surrounded the embassy in Kuwait, making it difficult for the four diplomats in the building to help with travel arrangements and impossible for people to hand in their passports.

Iraq said yesterday that 237 Western women and children were being allowed to leave likely war targets, while 28 had chosen to stay with their husbands and fathers. More than a hundred of those planning to go were moved to the Mansour Melia hotel in Baghdad. At the same time, 143 Japanese men were said to have been taken from the hotel to civil and military facilities, and the round-up of Westerners continued with another 32 Britons being taken from their homes in occupied Kuwait to Baghdad.

As Western officials concentrated on the logistics of getting their women and children out of the region, the peace effort limped along in the face of continued difficulties. The UN secretary-general's talks with Iraq's foreign minister were postponed until today, although Javier Pérez de Cuellar and Tariq Aziz were expected to hold informal talks last night.

Thirteen members of the Arab League met in Cairo to try to find a solution, but only Libya among Iraq's supporters attended, and King Hussein of Jordan continued his attempts at mediation with talks in Spain before flying to London last night.

Before leaving Paris for Amman, Senior Pérez de Cuellar said again that he would make no deals with Mr Aziz. "My mission is to obtain the implementation of resolutions that were adopted without opposition," he said. The task would be extremely difficult, but he felt the moment was right to start a dialogue "to put an end to this constant threat of killing each other."

I'm counting on the humanitarian spirit of the Iraqi authorities. There are lives at stake," he said he would go to Baghdad to meet President Saddam if necessary.

Mrs Thatcher's remarks, to leaders of Europe's centre-right political parties, were rejected at a news conference later by Bernhard Vogel representing Germany's Christian Democrats in the absence of the Chancellor Kohl. He said Germany would be giving financial support to Turkey, Egypt and Jordan in caring for refugees once reunification was completed. Paul Schuster, the Danish prime minister, said he was sending half his naval capability to the Gulf.

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to leave Iraq since President Saddam Hussein said Western women and children were free to go arrived in Amman. May Brakat, aged 17, who had gone on holiday to Baghdad "to get a tan", said she was happy and relieved to have got out.

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'Hostage is crucifying aloneness. There's a silent, screaming slide into the bowels of ultimate despair.'



Haunted memories: Brian Keenan at his emotional Dublin press conference yesterday

## Baghdad Briton ends her ordeal

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AMMAN

THE worst moment in the four-week ordeal of "May Barakat" — the first British hostage to get out of Baghdad since President Saddam's amnesty for women and children was announced — came yesterday, just after she had boarded Iraqi Airlines flight 163 for Amman.

I was sitting beside her as the cabin resounded to a stern and unexplained announcement in Arabic and English telling everybody to take their baggage and return immediately to the transit lounge for another passport check, in addition to the many already endured.

"It was almost the last straw," Ms Barakat, aged 17, a student hairdresser from Ealing, said. Her face blanched as we were rudely herded out by Iraqi officials. "They change the rules here so much that I am afraid that even now they will take me back and force me to spend my life in Baghdad," she said.

As it turned out, Ms Barakat was not the object of an eleventh-hour change, and after further inspection of precious exit visas, we were back on the plane. Some of the other passengers on the twicedaily "liberty flight" to Jordan wept as the jet took off.

While other Britons were stranded with their families or in hotels, Ms Barakat was staying alone with an Iraqi family, casual friends of her mother, when the August 2 invasion of Kuwait occurred and all westerners were forced to stay.

"The first few days were so frightening that I cried most of the time," she said. "We thought we were going to be bombed and an Arabic-speaking lady at the British embassy told us when we saw the black planes, we would know the

Continued on page 20, col 3

## Football charges avoided

By RONALD FAUX

NO PROSECUTIONS for manslaughter or any other criminal offence are to be brought as a result of the 1989 Hillsborough disaster when 95 football supporters were crushed to death, Allen Green QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, said yesterday.

The decision was greeted with relief by South Yorkshire police but with surprise and anger by the families of victims and some Liverpool MPs.

After an investigation by West Midlands police, the DPP concluded there was insufficient evidence to bring a prosecution for manslaughter or any other offence against the South Yorkshire police. Sheffield Wednesday football club, Messrs Eastwood and Partners, (engineers advising the football club) or Sheffield city council.

Mr Green said the lengthy investigation had also led him to conclude there was insufficient evidence to justify proceedings against any officer in the South Yorkshire force.

Peter Hayes, deputy chief constable of South Yorkshire welcomed the decision as an end to the uncertainty that had caused officers and their families a great deal of distress. The director's decision, he said, was not a matter for self-congratulation by the

Continued on page 20, col 7

## Saturday Review

Of pawns and politics



Garry Kasparov talks chess and political ambition ahead of his world title defence

## The Puttnam renaissance



David Puttnam, recovered from bruising Hollywood encounters, is back with Memphis Belle

## Indians on the warpath



Indian tribes are fighting a peaceful battle for the land they lost to the white man

## Opera discounts

Up to 30 per cent off tickets for this month's Covent Garden festival

## Plus...

Peter Ackroyd's Dickens biography, post-war Berlin, restoring a French chateau, Australasian food, English wine and Spanish-style mussels

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## IComa TOMORROW

On Saturday 1st September The Society of Company and Commercial Accountants changes its title to THE INSTITUTE OF COMPANY ACCOUNTANTS

The Society was founded in 1974 from the memberships of three established professional accountancy bodies and the new name is that of one of the founder organisations — The Institute of Company Accountants, incorporated in Birmingham in 1928. Entrance to the Institute is only by examination.

Fellows (FSCAs) and Associates (ASCAs) of the Institute are in industry, commerce, education or in public practice where they specialise in providing accountancy and taxation services for smaller businesses.



Further information from The Secretary-General, The Institute of Company Accountants, 40 Tyndalls Park Road, Bristol BS8 1PL Tel 0272 738261 Fax 0272 238292

## INSIDE

### 7,500 miners to lose jobs

British Coal has cleared the decks for privatisation by declaring a £5 billion loss after exceptional costs. The government has written off accumulated losses, reduced fixed assets valuations and made other provisions which plunge the corporation deep into the red, but which will make it much more attractive to potential investors.

The company yesterday revealed its worst set of annual figures since the 1984 pit strike and warned that 7,500 miners will lose their jobs over the next year. Page 21

### Tribunals full

The workload of industrial tribunals, which hear tens of thousands of cases of unfair dismissal or sexual discrimination annually, has increased so much that they are running out of money, and backlogs may take up all of next year's time. Page 6

### Leader attacked

Time appears to be running out for the leadership that levered the communists out of power in Poland. Prime minister Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki returned to the Gdansk shipyard cradle of Solidarity yesterday and was bombarded by criticism from the workers. Page 9

### British gold

British athletes won four more medals — two gold, one silver and one bronze — in the European championships in Split, Yugoslavia, yesterday, taking the overall tally after four days to 11. Page 33, 34

### Degree courses

A list of vacancies remaining for degree courses in modern languages, engineering technology and maths at British universities, polytechnics and colleges appears today Page 29

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OS

## Guinness trio get early taste of prison high life

By QUENTIN COWDRY HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE disgraced Guinness plotters, Ernest Saunders, Anthony Parnes and Gerald Ronson, were transferred to an open prison yesterday after spending less than 48 hours in the unsalubrious Victorian confines of Brixton jail.

The trio will no doubt have breathed a huge sigh of relief at the Home Office's swift-footedness in switching them from south London to Ford open prison near Arundel, West Sussex.

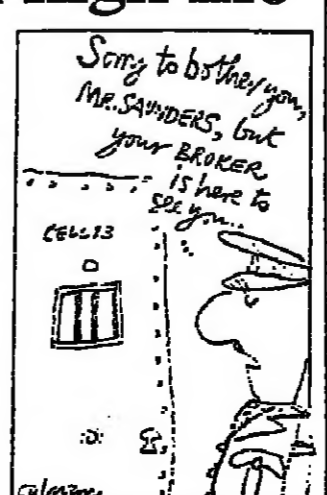
At Brixton, slopping out is the norm and most inmates are banged up in shared cells for most of the day. At lunchtime yesterday, however, they exchanged this squalor for one of the most enlightened penal regimes. Prisoners at Ford live in single storey blocks and enjoy greater access to work, training and leisure facilities than prisoners in higher security jails. They may also use payphones inside the jail and send and receive uncensored letters.

Their day will, however, be highly regimented, from the moment they rise at 7.15am prompt through to lights out in their cubicle bedrooms at 10pm. Meal-times will not be much to savour either, being strictly of the meat-and-two-veg variety, with a sugary lump of carbohydrate to follow.

Another indignity will come on Monday when the three will have to sit a simple exam to test their IQs. That will be followed on Tuesday with an interview with the jail's director of "labour" who will decide how best they ought to spend their time. The Prison Officers' Association said that it was common for new inmates convicted of non-violent crimes and with no criminal records to be switched within days to open jails. The Home Office described the move as "not out of the ordinary."

Saunders' son James, aged 24, said that he was very pleased about the transfer. He and his sister Joanna plan to visit their father at the earliest opportunity. Saunders could be released in 30 months if he gets parole. Parnes, jailed for two-and-a-half years, could be freed in ten months, and Ronson, jailed for a year and fined £5 million, will be out in six months.

Few regrets from Ronson, page 7 Letters, page 11



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# Britain dismisses diplomatic peace efforts as premature

By ANDREW MC EWE  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AS TWO attempts to promote peace in the Gulf began yesterday, the government made it clear that they were premature. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations secretary-general, and King Hussein of Jordan were pursuing separate efforts to find a diplomatic solution. Washington, too, believes that the time is not ripe for such initiatives.

Britain and America want to allow a long period, perhaps several months, for trade sanctions to weaken Iraq's position, fearing that any solution at this stage would entail concessions to Baghdad. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said that he doubted that Señor Pérez de Cuéllar's talks with Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, would lead

to Iraq complying with UN resolutions. He supported the secretary-general's initiative, but emphasised the distinction between dialogue and negotiation.

Speaking in an interview on BBC television's *Breakfast News*, he said: "I generally doubt whether he will come home with a success in this round." The foreign secretary, comparing President Saddam Hussein's negotiating tactics with those of a thief, said: "A burglar goes into your house and takes £1,000. He locks himself up in your bathroom and says: 'I will be willing to give you £500 if you let me go away with the other £500'."

King Hussein, who is expected to meet Margaret Thatcher today, is keen to find an Arab solution but appears willing for Iraq to keep certain powers over an autonomous Kuwait. Mr Hurd leaves

today for a tour of Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Jordan to promote a different approach. He will, in effect, urge abstention from force and diplomacy alike until a decent interval has elapsed.

His policy amounts to an each-way bet. Nobody expects the embargo to be wholly effective, but even a partial success would lead to serious shortages in Baghdad and might erode President Saddam's support. Few observers believe that would bring about an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

The failure of the embargo would, in some ways, be preferable to success, however, as long as it was clearly caused by widespread sanctions-breaking. Firm evidence of evasion would be of great diplomatic value and might enable the West to obtain a United Nations Security Council resolution

calling for UN military intervention under article 42 of the world body's charter.

Resolutions 661 to 666 have authorised an embargo and the use of force to implement it if necessary, but a further resolution would be needed before there could be a UN force. Moscow has made it clear that it would not support such a move without strong evidence of evasion.

Moscow has also insisted that, if the UN is to use force, it must do so through its virtually defunct military committee, with multinational forces under UN command and the UN flag. America, France and, to a lesser extent, Britain oppose these demands, but such a resolution would be so great a diplomatic prize that they might compromise.

John Sununu, President Bush's White House chief of staff, who

has just visited Moscow, is to see Mr Thatcher today. There would be no surprise if they discussed tactics for securing Soviet support.

The only previous UN use of force, during the Korean war, was in effect a US operation with allied support. The action became possible only because Moscow was not participating in security council resolutions at the time. A resolution supported by Moscow, Iraq's traditional ally, would place Baghdad in a hopeless position.

Faced with the prospect of a UN invasion of Kuwait, President Saddam might capitulate without a fight. Whether the Soviet Union would need to participate is arguable, as long as it gave diplomatic support.

President Saddam might, however, be tempted to resist if he thought that enough of the Arab camp would support him. A

majority of the Arab League has taken sides against him, although not necessarily with the West. He has the support of the Palestinians and most of the north African states, except Morocco and Egypt. The positions taken by Yemen and Jordan would be of vital importance because of their strategic positions.

Yemen appears to have a foot in both camps, supporting Iraq in most respects but proving more co-operative with the West than had been expected in the security council, of which it is a permanent member. Mr Hurd will try to draw Yemen closer to the Western view when he visits Sanaa, but knows this will be difficult. His visit was almost called off when Sanaa threatened to expel the British consul-general.

He will also visit Amman, where he faces the difficulty of

persuading a traditional friend to return to the Western fold. The government has some sympathy for King Hussein's predicament, but remains disappointed with his ambiguous position.

The king's reluctance to condemn the invasion of Kuwait reflects the weakness of a small country with a regional superpower for a neighbour, but also stems from the vociferous support for President Saddam by the large Palestinian population in Jordan.

Mr Hurd will try to weaken that support by arguing that President Saddam has weakened the Palestinian case and played into the hands of Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister. He may, however, have difficulty in getting that message heard in the right quarters.

Profile of John Sununu, page 14

## Thatcher calls for Nato to assume global policing role

From NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT IN HELSINKI

MARGARET Thatcher yesterday seized on Europe's "slow and patchy" military response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait to intensify her campaign for Nato to assume a global role in policing potential troublespots.

Risking a new breach in her strained relations with Britain's trading partners, the prime minister used her toughest language yet in criticising European hesitation in the face of President Saddam Hussein's aggression. She said it was sad that, at such a critical time, Europe had not fully measured up to expectations.

She suggested that the faltering response of some European Community leaders gave the lie to their rhetoric about a common security policy as part of moves towards political union in the EC. "When it comes to something practical, which affects us fundamentally, some countries are hesitant. It is not what you say that counts, but what you do," she told leaders of Europe's centre-right political parties gathered in Helsinki for a conference of the European Democratic Union.

Britain and France were the only countries that had done more than the minimum in helping the United States combat the threat to

Western oil supplies and the violation of international law, Mrs Thatcher said. Although she did not single out any countries, she was understood to be particularly disappointed at West Germany's failure to make more than a token contribution to the international effort to force Iraq to back down. She is also believed to be concerned about Italy's contribution.

While accepting that West Germany's constitution restricts its ability to commit forces outside the Nato area, the prime minister is understood to believe that West Germany could, like Japan, be making a big financial contribution to the costs of the airlift and to compensating countries such as Turkey and Jordan, who stand to lose most from the trade embargo on Iraq.

She is thought to believe that the Germans could, in particular, assist Turkey, which she praised yesterday for its outstanding response in cutting Iraq's oil lifeline.

Her remarks, later repeated at a general press conference, provoked controversy. Dr Bernhard Vogel, representing West Germany's Christian Democrats in the absence of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, said he disagreed with her evaluation. Germany would be giving financial support to Turkey, Egypt and Jordan in caring for refugees fleeing from Iraq and Kuwait, once unification was completed in five weeks time, he said.

Poul Schlüter, the Danish prime minister and by implication one of Mrs Thatcher's targets, said he would effectively be sending half his navy to the Gulf. But Mrs Thatcher stuck to her guns, while avoiding naming names. She denied she was again being negative about the EC, but could not resist a dig at what she regards as woolly aspirations. "Rhetoric, I admit, I leave to the others. Deeds I get on with," she said.

Mrs Thatcher said that, at a political level, Europe's response had been very satisfactory and that the Twelve and the six countries of the European Free Trade Association had shown excellent solidarity in protecting each other's nationals in Iraq. "But in defence terms the European response was much slower and more patchy. We had a Nato ministerial meeting, but could not agree to issue a statement because some members had reservations about Nato involving itself in out-of-area issues."

The events of the past month had demonstrated the foresight she had shown at the June Nato summit at Turnberry in Scotland when, in the face of some criticism, she had first floated the idea of an out-of-area role for Nato, and highlighted the Gulf as a place of potential danger. She said that as Europe became more peaceful, the rest of the world might become "more perilous for us."

"There is no place in future for an inward-looking Nato, any more than there is for an inward-looking EC. We are going to need both the will power and the military forces to defend our interests in the rest of the world, in partnership with the US. Otherwise, we shall be seen as selfish and weak and failing to rise to our responsibilities," she said.



Technicians preparing antidotes for nerve gas at Penn Pharmaceuticals in Tredgar, South Wales. The small laboratory has taken on extra staff and has been working round the clock, since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait raised tensions in the Gulf.

### US DONOR PLAN

## White House puts pressure on allies to help foot the bill

From CHARLES BRENNER IN WASHINGTON

AMID growing American impatience over the meagre Western contribution to Gulf peacekeeping, the Bush administration is sending a multi-billion dollar bill to its main allies to help finance the American military operation there and to shore up the economies of Middle Eastern states damaged by the embargo.

The donor plan, hammered out by a White House team over the past week and leaked by officials yesterday, is intended to put heavier pressure on countries such as West Germany and Japan to shoulder the substantial financial burden of the US-led operation.

The Pentagon says it is now spending \$46 million (£23.7 million) a day to run Operation Desert Shield, leading to \$2.5 billion by the end of September. Under the scheme, approved by the National Security Council on Wednesday, wealthy countries, including Japan, Germany, Saudi Arabia and the exiled Kuwait government, would pay at least \$1.1 billion a month to help cover America's costs in the region. The *Washington Post* reported, Britain and other European states were also being asked to help.

A total of \$10 billion would go to states facing hardship, including Jordan, Egypt, Turkey and India. Richard Cheney, the US Defence Secretary, and General Colin Powell, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, have been adamant that Jordan, Egypt and Turkey be given rapid compensation for their sacrifices in enforcing the embargoes. The plan is also

intended to deflect increasing criticism from the public and Congress over the failure of America's friends to assist the Gulf effort. Britain and France are exceptions but, despite American gratitude over Margaret Thatcher's rapid support in the beginning, demands are now appearing for a greater material effort by Britain. The *New York Times* yesterday included Britain in the list of countries not fully pulling their weight, saying: "They, along with France, could send more troops to Saudi Arabia."

West Germany and Japan are bearing the brunt of the criticism, which some congressmen fear could erode national support for America's role as Gulf policeman. The Americans have not been impressed by the package announced by Toshiki Kaifu, the Japanese prime minister, even after he specified that it would include a \$1 billion contribution to the multinational military effort. The package, which includes unspecified loans and grants to Egypt, Turkey and Jordan and medical assistance, initially contained no clear financial contribution to the military build-up.

President Bush was reported to have telephoned Mr Kaifu to tell him to "put some flesh on it". On Tuesday Michael Armacost, the American ambassador in Tokyo, spoke publicly of America's "impatience, bewilderment and exasperation" with Japan.

The United States scheme, according to the leaked accounts, envisages a \$600 million contribution from Germany on top of a \$40 million a month fee for the defence effort. Officials declined to confirm this and said Bonn had not yet indicated its assent to any specific donation. The White House, however, assured disgruntled congressmen on Tuesday that Bonn was about to provide something. The *New York Times*, expressing a widespread view in the administration, warned yesterday that "Germany would be short-sighted to underestimate its debt to America's sacrifice. That's even more true for Tokyo."

White House officials and several key congressmen are insisting that aid to Jordan must be tied to a condition that King Hussein commit himself firmly to the embargo.

Cheney: adamant on rapid compensation for sacrifices

Leading article, page 11

## Kremlin plea to Arabs

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

EDUARD Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, yesterday urged Arab foreign ministers to unite to prevent war in the Gulf. In what was described as an urgent message clearly reflecting Soviet frustration at continuing inter-Arab discord, Mr Shevardnadze said: "The Arabs' ability to unite at a critical moment largely determines whether or not a war in the Middle East can be averted."

Moscow has consistently expressed the hope that an Arab solution could be found to the Kuwait crisis. This would allow the Soviet Union to disengage from the region in the name of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. It would also ease the pressure on Moscow to vote for an internationally coordinated military option if sanctions on Iraq do not work.

Meanwhile, the foreign affairs committee of the Soviet parliament, the Supreme Soviet, heard the deputy foreign minister, Aleksandr Belonogov, who has been overseeing day-to-day policy on the Gulf, question the US military presence in Saudi Arabia. "The growth of American military might cannot please us either in the short term, because the situation is becoming more and more explosive, or in the long term, because there is no guarantee that the United States will leave Saudi Arabia once the crisis is over," he said. Other foreign ministry spokesmen, including Mr Shevardnadze, have been careful not to condemn the US presence in Saudi Arabia, even obliquely.

## Aziz set to offer West a package

From RICHARD OWEN IN AMMAN

THE Iraqi foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, is expected to offer a "compromise" package on Kuwait when he meets Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations secretary-general, for talks in Amman today.

Mr Aziz, who was originally to have had informal talks with Señor Pérez de Cuéllar last night but postponed his arrival by a day, will propose making Kuwait a "federated autonomous region" with self-governing powers, according to Arab diplomats.

Arab sources said that Baghdad would seek a guarantee that it would not be attacked while withdrawing from Kuwait, and that US forces would withdraw at the same time.

In the run-up to Mr Aziz's meeting with Señor Pérez de Cuéllar, President Saddam has made several conciliatory gestures, including an offer to allow women and children hostages to leave. Iraq has also said that male hostages could leave if the United States promised not to launch a military strike.

Western diplomats in the Middle East said that such gestures did not address the heart of the matter; that is, Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. But one Arab observer said that, on the grounds of a claim going back to Ottoman times, Iraq would never let go of territory it had captured. "That is Tariq Aziz's bottom line," he said.

Arab diplomats say that the Iraqi hope is that President Bush will settle for a solution short of an Iraqi withdrawal but which guarantees regional stability and the security of oil supplies. King Hussein of Jordan, who has arrived in Madrid on the latest leg of his own peace mission, is urging a similar solution, with Arab forces replacing foreign troops.

But Señor Pérez de Cuéllar said he was in no position to make deals with Mr Aziz. "I want to make it very clear that it is not up to me to negotiate resolutions adopted by the Security Council," he said. "My mission as secretary-general is to obtain implementation of resolutions which were adopted without opposition."

Señor Pérez de Cuéllar said he felt that he had to enter the arena and make a personal effort to start the dialogue "to put an end to this constant threat of killing each other". He said that there were indications that Iraq was looking for a way out, and if necessary he would go to Baghdad to see President Saddam in person.

Many Arab diplomats and scholars as well as many ordinary Arabs believe that the West sees the conflict purely in terms of comparative military strengths and the strategic value of oil reserves, with little or no attempt to understand Arab aims and emotions.

Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan yesterday said that Jordan opposed the annexation and occupation of Kuwait. But he added that a series of Middle East historical disputes which had bedevilled the region for decades and created instability must be resolved.

An Iraqi withdrawal was not a straightforward proposition, the Crown Prince said, adding: "The problem between Iraq and Kuwait dates from the beginning of the century. Baghdad did recognise Kuwait in 1961, but it never reached agreement on the borders. When we talk of an Iraqi withdrawal, we must ask ourselves, withdrawal to where?"

Many Arabs believe that although President Saddam went too far he nevertheless represents the desire of many Arabs to reverse the humiliating defeats of the past and rid the Middle East of Western domination. "The West often quotes the Arabic saying: 'Me and my brother against my cousin,' one Jordanian said yesterday. 'But it forgets the rest of the proverb: 'And me and my cousin against the stranger.'"

Some Western observers believe that the longer a diplomatic lull enables President Saddam to pose as a lone Arab champion against Western might, the more the Arab masses will begin to oppose those Arab regimes which at present support the multi-national alliance against Iraq.

## Saddam's rating plummets in TV propaganda war

From CHARLES BRENNER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush and those patriotic politicians who anguished over the way American television seemed to be playing into the hands of President Saddam Hussein have now changed their tune. After three sessions of what is being called the "Saddam Show", it has become clear that the Iraqi ruler is no master of the medium.

Despite the avuncular manner and the slick suits, President Saddam is deemed by the viewers and experts to be failing in his attempt to appeal to the American people, casting himself as a misunderstood man of peace. Accord-

ing to the White House image makers, the president's two appearances as the talk show host with the literally captive audience could not have been better devised to stir the wrath of red-blooded Americans.

The image of the dictator stroking children's heads and talking of starvation was so repulsive that it could have been designed by an expert in the "attack-videos" of US campaigning.

In the latest episode, President Saddam accorded an hour-long interview to Dan Rather, the anchorman of CBS. Once again, General Saddam was all wounded pride, explaining patiently that his

guests were not hostages because he was asking for no ransom. "We have not really taken any hostages. We want nothing. We want war not to come about," he said.

If anyone felt disposed to credit this logic, the president made sure that he lost his audience by assuring them that America was once on the side of Satan. "If you fight us it will be a greater tragedy for you than Vietnam... the United States would no longer be number one in the world. No strike can destroy a whole people... God is on our side and Satan is on the side of America. Can Satan win over God?"

As Walter Goodman, television critic of *The New York Times*,

noted, President Saddam has "never before had to be concerned with the tube's ability to take over the proceedings, to cut through some forms of dissemblance and to rouse unintended emotions". The *Washington Post* critic noted that President Saddam had proved that in the global village there is always a village bully.

The Iraqi leader did say he had learned something from his two television appearances with the hostage children. "Part of what I had discovered was the possibility of our Arab way of life. Arab way of thinking, being misinterpreted through this situation by these women."

President Saddam again sent

mixed signals on the issue of Kuwait's future, repeating his appeals for dialogue and saying that there was always "room for new ideas", but also stressing that Kuwait would for ever remain part of Iraq.

The Baghdad interview was hailed yesterday as a coup for the CBS anchorman in the war-raging among the US networks for access to Baghdad. Though beaten to a Saddam interview by Patrick Poivre d'Arvour, of French television, Mr Rather none the less upstaged Jesse Jackson, the black political leader, now waiting in an hotel for the Baghdad call for an interview in his new role as host of his own talk show.

# Baghdad far from city of normality depicted by regime

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN BAGHDAD

FAR FROM Baghdad being the city of stoical normality which the Iraqi regime would like the newly invited world's media to convey in its reports, the capital's mood is one of bitter desperation among Westerners and growing resignation to the possibility of protracted modern warfare among the Iraqis.

"Life is a nightmare which you reporters can never recount because you are too afraid of losing your exit visas," said a young Swiss businessman condemned to remain indefinitely despite a promise that Swiss citizens would be among those free to leave.

The businessman claimed that television companies were being duped into sending heavily censored material purporting to be everyday life in the Iraqi capital.

A Western ambassador, referring to the switches in Iraqi policy towards those who are free to leave and those described as enforced guests, said: "The situation is extraordinary, bizarre, inhuman and illegal."

The ambassador's remarks had an added bite because two days earlier he discovered he was among the hundreds of diplomats now forbidden to travel outside Iraq. "What people do not realise is that

governments are haggling in the fashion of the bazaar about the percentages of populations that are able to leave, and this is being done with a country which is a member of the United Nations," he said.

"The language goes something like this: 'We will increase the quota of your nationals who can leave by 10 or 15 per cent if you do X or Y about your attitude on the sanctions policy.'"

The double-speak of the Iraqis on the hostages (most recently dubbed "heroes of peace" by the state-controlled Baghdad Observer) is the result of a refusal to face the reality of a deeply obnoxious police and the differences within the government.

Mohammed Amin, the award-winning television cameraman, was twice refused an exit this week, although his departure had been approved by the information ministry which invited him.

The interior ministry was anxious that he and other Western newsmen should join Western males as "guests", the word used to greet journalists when they were first met by officials.

Mr Amin was the first of the press corps to leave and his departure was seen as a test case but not as any guarantee that the relative glasnost pol-

## HIGH-TECH WEAPONS

### Prowlers give US forces radar edge

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AMERICA'S four aircraft carriers in the Gulf, Red Sea and eastern Mediterranean are equipped with a total of 18 EA-6B Prowler aircraft whose mission in any war with Iraq would be to electronically jam ground-based early warning radars and fire-control radar systems at Iraqi surface-to-air missile and anti-aircraft sites.

The Prowlers, fitted with the latest avionics systems, would fly as part of an American bombing raid, jamming Iraqi radar frequencies as the attack aircraft approached their targets. Each Prowler has five pods under the wings and fuselage containing ten jamming transmitters. The pods are self-powered with wind-driven generators. Thus, if one or more fails to function, the rest would be unaffected.

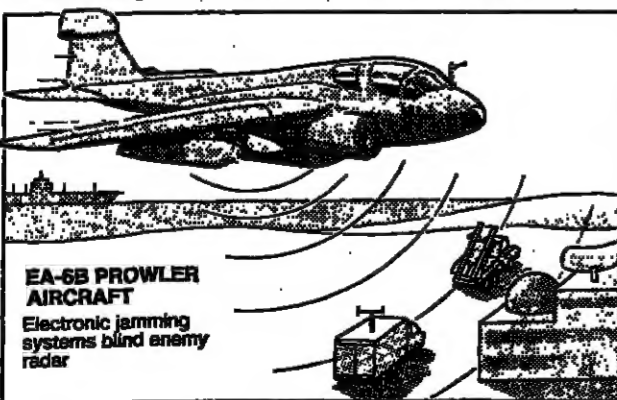
Surveillance receivers in a fin-tip pod provide long-range detection of radars, and all signals are fed into a central computer that processes the information. The jamming process can be carried out automatically or by command. Each pod can generate

signals in seven different frequency bands and can jam on any two detected.

David Brinkman, editor of *Jane's Aviation*, said: "Every type of radar has its own unique signature, so the system on the Prowler assesses each signal it receives and then jams the relevant ones with noise, blinding the ground radars." Once jamming begins, the enemy is alerted that hostile aircraft may be approaching.

That is why the procedure must be part of a carefully planned tactical operation. "The Prowlers can fly up and down, jamming continuously, so the enemy doesn't know when the bombers are coming," Mr Brinkman said.

There has been a suggestion that the Soviet Union, which supplied Iraq with anti-air defence systems, has given the Americans the radar frequencies used. If true, that will make it much easier to jam Iraq's radar sites. Prowlers will not be able to jam Iraq's Scud-B ballistic missiles, however, because they do not have a radar homing system.



EA-6B PROWLER AIRCRAFT  
Electronic jamming systems blind enemy radar

## DHAHRAN NOTEBOOK by Nicholas Beeston

### Hollywood mobilises for war

Operation Desert Shield could not have come at a better time for Hollywood, which is running out of permutations for Vietnam era films. Here, desert khaki has replaced jungle green and GIs listen to Madonna on Sony Walkmans rather than Jimmy Hendrix over a transistor radio, but otherwise many basic ingredients for war drama remain.

One of the first scriptwriters off the mark was John Milius, who wrote *Apocalypse Now*, and has already asked to visit the troops.

The studios' access to the campaign will be made all the easier by the appointment of Captain Mike Sherman as head of public affairs. His normal job is liaison between Hollywood and the Pentagon. This week he greeted his staff in the manner of the disc-jockey played by Robin Williams in the film *Good Morning Vietnam*: "Good morning, Saudi Arabia."



Well, at least parking isn't the big problem.

The distraught female corporal cried: "Candy, where's the candy?" as she scanned the shelves of the mini-supermarket. "How am I going to survive without chocolate?"

Dyed blonde, wearing fatigues, and with the regulation gas mask dangling at her side, she stood at the check-out with a fluffy white toy gorilla under her arm, while a marine sergeant flicked through the T-shirt rack.

The American fighting machine could not exist without the PX, the American equivalent of the Naafi. The shop may have run out of "candy", but it does cater for most

other cravings, such as a cocktail shaker set with one-shot whisky glasses, or a selection of condoms in nine varieties.

Since there will probably be little opportunity for US personnel to make use of either the cocktail set or the condoms during their stay in Saudi Arabia, specially assigned staff are desperately seeking distractions for the troops before the excitement of their mission begins to fade and the tedium of routine life in the Gulf sets in.

Those duties have been assigned to, among others, Staff Sergeant Clifford Makinson of the Tactical Air Command, who describes himself as a "recreation specialist", and who never goes anywhere without a video library and VCR to keep the men entertained. Although anxious at first, he may have

been given the toughest assignment in operation Desert Shield.

His eyes light up when he describes his latest find, an American-designed \$80 million (£41 million) sports complex, which boasts an olympic-size swimming pool, two gymnasiums, and, best of all, an eight-lane, ten pin bowling alley, complete with snack bar and alcohol-free lager. He envisages a day when units from rival services will compete in basketball and softball tournaments.

The problem, however, is to find distractions for the bulk of US forces living under canvas in the inhospitable Arabian desert, where the only entertainment at night is gazing at the stars. "There is a lot of sand out there," he said confidently. "Perfect terrain for volley ball."

If there was any doubt about the new warmth in the relationship between the US and the Soviet Union, it will be dispelled by a visit to a key Saudi port on the Gulf.

The one incongruous looking vessel, which docked earlier this month, is a Soviet freighter that appears to be in no hurry to leave the harbour. The Marines have until now ignored its presence, except for a small group who, every afternoon, take up a vantage point near the cargo ship armed with binoculars.

The men admit that they are not scanning the bridge for signs of sophisticated Russian communications equipment, but instead trying to get a better view of the female Russian crew members sun-bathing.



Bangladeshi refugees from Iraq queuing for food at Marj-al-Hamman International Fair in Jordan

## Uncertainty remains over release of British hostages

By ANDREW MCEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITISH hostages in Iraq and Kuwait endured a second day of confusion yesterday over whether or not they would be allowed to leave.

Baghdad appeared to be making preparations for their departure, but had continued not to give formal confirmation of President Saddam Hussein's decision to free them. Whitehall sources said that it was further proof of Baghdad's "cat and mouse" tactics with the hostages.

Some reports said that Baghdad would only allow aircraft to pick up the hostages if they were loaded with food and medicines. That was, however, being treated as a rumour by the Foreign Office.

The British embassy in Kuwait reported that a further 32 Britons had been taken from their homes, bringing the total number held to 197. The embassy did not say whether all the new detainees were men, but Whitehall sources thought it likely. The actions seemed to show that Baghdad has not relaxed its policy of rounding up foreigners, in spite of the apparent decision to allow women and children to leave.

Whitehall sources said that requests for assurances that British aircraft would be allowed to land and leave again loaded with hostages had not been answered. The

Foreign Office has also been pressing for details of other Iraqi arrangements.

British diplomats, however, were for the first time in about two weeks allowed to visit the Mansour Melia Hotel in Baghdad, where many of the detained Britons are being held. They took details of about a hundred British women who want to leave and were helping them to obtain exit visas.

Baghdad also announced that 237 Western women and

children were being allowed to leave likely war targets. But the Iraqi news agency said that 28 women and children had chosen to stay with their husbands or fathers. The agency added that a hundred people planning to leave had been moved from military bases and civilian institutions to a Baghdad hotel. Harold Walker, the British ambassador in Baghdad, said that it could take days for them to be released.

## ARAB LEAGUE

### Nine allies of Iraq boycott Cairo meeting

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAQ'S allies boycotted a meeting of Arab League foreign ministers in Cairo yesterday to pursue peace initiatives that had already been rejected by the West.

Reflecting the deepest division yet in Arab ranks, only 12 of the League's 21 members attended. Those that did were the same 12 that endorsed in August 10 resolution to send Arab forces to join Western troops in the defence of Saudi Arabia. They included Egypt, Syria, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states.

Yesterday's meeting was expected to keep up pressure on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, but its credibility was eroded by the poor turnout. Under Arab League rules, resolutions accepted by simple majorities are binding only on those that voted for them.

In what was seen as another propaganda ploy to win the support of the Arab masses, Iraq said it would attack Israel if war broke out in the Gulf. "We don't say our air or missile force can reach the White House," said Iraq's air force commander. "If war breaks out, it will direct crushing blows to the dens of the Israelis who have and are still planning a malicious role in pushing matters to war."

The unnamed commander, whose warning was published by an Iraqi news agency, said the Iraqi air force would also strike at Saudi Arabia. "The dens of treason in the (Saudi) kingdom of evil... will not be safe from destruction." He said he was responding to a boast by a Saudi commander who had said the multinational forces in the kingdom could strike deadly blows against Iraq.

President Saddam Hussein's threat in March to "burn half of Israel" with chemical weapons excited many Arabs, particularly Palestinians, who welcomed what they saw as the emergence of an Arab leader willing to defy Israel and answer for it with force. Observers said President Saddam hoped to provoke Israel into a military response that would unite Arabs behind Baghdad.

The air strike threats came less than 24 hours before King Hussein of Jordan was due in London to try to persuade Margaret Thatcher that the Iraqi leader was committed to a peaceful solution. Mrs Thatcher has ruled out nego-

tiations, insisting that any settlement must be based on UN resolutions. King Hussein left Morocco at the end of a tour of five north African states to begin a European tour in Spain. He held talks with King Juan Carlos and Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish prime minister. He is expected to spend the weekend in London before flying to Paris, where Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, received an unusually cool reception on Wednesday.

Critics of King Hussein and Mr Arafat accused them of trying to buy time for Iraq. Their supporters said their efforts were helping to avert a war in the Gulf. While Jordan insists its plan has Iraq's support, Baghdad has not confirmed this.

Both Jordanian and PLO officials have complained that Iraq has made it difficult to sell their peace plans abroad by sending out signals that it has no intention of withdrawing from Kuwait. A PLO official in Nicosia said President Saddam believed he could withstand the economic siege for months, which would give him time to capitalise on divisions in the Arab world.

There have been reports of pro-Iraqi demonstrations in Syria, which has dispatched 1,100 troops to Saudi Arabia. Arab diplomats in Jordan said Syrian security forces had killed scores of protesters in violent clashes in the eastern cities of Dayr az Zawr and Al Hasakah.

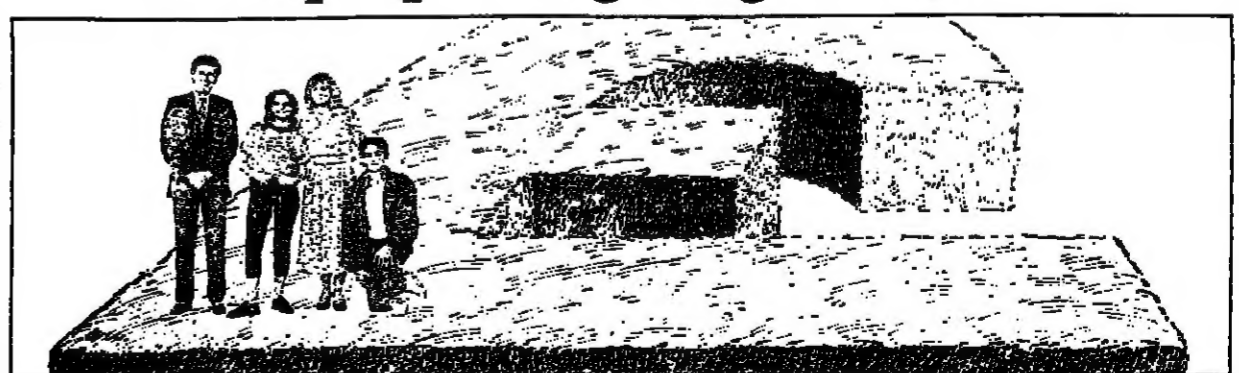
Palestinian sources in Cyprus said the demonstrations were more widespread, and had also taken place in cities hundreds of miles from the Iraqi border, such as Hims and Hama.

The invasion of Kuwait has also led to divisions in smaller Arab groupings. The five-member Arab Maghreb Union, four of whose members are sympathetic to Iraq, postponed a foreign ministers' meeting yesterday because the Moroccan minister went to the Arab League session in Cairo.

Tunisia has begun its own mediation efforts. President Zine ben Ali planned to dispatch envoys to Arab states, Europe, the United States and China.

Crown Prince Hassan, page 10

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The magazine it pays you to buy.

# How I survived the grinding moments of hopelessness

BRIAN Keenan, the freed Beirut hostage, yesterday gave a moving account of how he and the three hostages who shared most of his four-and-a-half years in captivity had faced up to their ordeal.

He recalled the petty tensions of their life together and the deep companionship that grew between them, as they struggled to keep fit and keep each other's spirits up with marathon games of dominoes and imaginary projects for the benefit of the world, worked in obsessive detail.

Close to tears, Mr Keenan described John McCarthy, the British journalist, as his soul mate. He said, however, that he had not seen Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy, and did not know anything about him. Even so, he said: "I felt in the last place we were in there was certainly another hostage whom I heard in the early hours of the morning saying 'Oh no, oh no', but I don't know who it was."

Speaking of Mr McCarthy, he said: "How can I forget him, his humour, his abundant love of life which at so many times seemed to diminish to almost extinction those grinding moments of hopelessness. In John Boy [named after the character in *The Wolf*] I saw a man grow, I watched a man deepen and it was a real joy to be a witness to that."

"John in the beginning, when he was kept alone and during the first months we were together was somewhat withdrawn, fearful and initially found person-to-person communication difficult. It was a matter of slowly relearning how to socialise. We all of us thought, how could we relate to anyone

said: "John McCarthy is a great giver. It is now time for some people to start giving to John McCarthy."

Mr Keenan spoke with affection and with stoical gallows humour of Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for Associated Press, who would vex his companions with his "voracious hunger for intellectual conversation, and when he could not get it would pace the floor endlessly in his patched and re-patched socks... I think he debated with himself a lot when we tried to plug our ears."

"Terry would also have his periods of despair and seek solace in his family. Terry and myself would sit through those long nights and speak with great pain and remorse and longing for his daughter. With many tears he would elaborate his plans when he was finally back in the States to help her to shape and discover her future. In those confessional moments which were common to us all a deep and enduring and unbreakable bond was formed."

He said that Mr Anderson had used his time in captivity to design and evolve a project for a school for young delinquent boys in America. "The dozen of hostages, as he has been called, is a man who felt so committed to these things that he inspired us to our own survival projects."

Mr Anderson was nicknamed 'Thunderbum' because of his frequent bouts of "Beirut belly". Although often debilitated with pain, Terry stoically suffered "for in truth all pain and illness was generally dismissed by our keepers, though they would eventually supply us with some form of antibiotics".

Mr Keenan said that he was held for about eight months with Mr Anderson, and last saw him 11 months ago.

He went on to speak of Tom Sutherland, dean of agriculture at the American University in Beirut, as "a man courteous and very, very brave at heart... of all of us perhaps the man least prepared by life for the horror he now endures".

Mr Sutherland had passed the time for his fellow hostages by delivering "fascinating lectures in genetics and animal husbandry, which came to us in those awful places as a kind of light, illuminating the darkness, warming the chill of despair."

"Sutherland was unfortunate in that his career never allowed him to develop much skill at poker, much to our advantage." Sutherland used to talk to his companions about his 20-year-old Volvo car. "It now seems he has lost many parts of that Volvo, doors and windows, which were put up as stakes in the innumerable games of cards we played among ourselves. He doesn't know it, but his Volvo has gone."

Mr Sutherland spent several hours a day teaching him French and clung with a stubborn tenacity to the hope that he would one day return to Beirut and complete his work.

Mr Keenan said that he was kept alone for the first three-and-a-half months of his captivity "in a very, very, very bad, dirty, filthy



Jill Morrell listens to anecdotes about her friend John McCarthy and the other hostages in Beirut during Brian Keenan's press conference in Dublin yesterday

prison. It was very small and I was taken out, walked ten paces to the toilet where I could wash and ten paces back, back to the cell, and I was given my food for the day, and that was it."

Asked if religion had helped him, he replied "I am not and never was religious in terms of an institutionalised church. But in the days when I was kept locked up alone, I found that one cannot keep the mind alive by talking just to itself. If you are asking me did I pray, the answer is yes. If you ask me am I religious then no."

Mr Keenan, taken hostage outside his Beirut home four days before the American bombing of Libya, said he thought it was because his kidnappers believed he was British. He said that a car pulled up, a door was opened blocking his passage and he was forced inside by men carrying Kalashnikov rifles.

"After many days fighting with the guys who took me, not physically, I demanded to know on several occasions why I'd been taken. They seemed somewhat confused that they had an Irish person," he said. "I refused to eat for six days until they told me [why he had been kidnapped] and they brought me a copy of *The Times* covering the incidents in Libya and told me that that was the reason, and I didn't believe

them. They thought I was British."

He did not know at what point during his captivity his captors had acknowledged that he was Irish.

Mr Keenan was reluctant to offer advice about how the campaign to release his fellow hostages should be conducted. "You're asking me for my analysis or my solution. What shall I say? I have known nothing for four-and-a-half years. The world has changed very greatly for me. I can only say this, look at my hands. Hands are the most complex and perhaps most beautiful structure. With these hands I can do many things. With this hand [he raised his left hand] I can curse. I can make it a driving force of such power that I can make a wasteland of this right hand. I can play music, make sculpture, do beautiful things, but above all with this right hand I can overcome the other hand. I can contain it, I can conquer it. This power in all of us is creative, passionate, unconquerable."

He thanked "all the people of this island. Hundreds and thousands of people who I have never met who sent me messages, cards, flowers and gifts. To experience such love is to partake of something sublime. I thank them all. I embrace them all. I must, of course, without any hesitation thank the Irish Government, the civil servants and particularly Mr Conor Murphy for his work."

Thanking the other Governments that helped to secure his release, he particularly mentioned the Dutch, who assisted the Irish authorities in Damascus.

Mr Keenan added: "I am more than grateful to the medical and other staff of the Mater hospital, and while I am on this subject I thought perhaps I would ask if the Irish government could facilitate me with a large container lorry, as I would like to kidnap Sister Mercer and about 55 of the nuns."

Mr Keenan made it clear, answering questions after his statement, that he felt no desire for revenge or retribution regarding his captors. "I do not see that as positive or meaningful. For myself I would find that self-maiming and I do not intend maiming myself by going into a rage of anger. Some of our captors were reasonable... others had an element of hysteria not subject to reasoning."

He said that his captors' knowledge of the world was limited. They had sometimes talked of their faith, Islam, and had given the hostages copies of the Koran when there was nothing else to read. On some occasions the captives were asked about converting to the faith of the people holding them in Beirut. In response, said Mr Keenan: "We simply held up our chains."

To pass away the long hours, he

and John McCarthy dreamed up a series of bizarre projects. "I had it in mind to open an underwater public bar somewhere. I was talking also about setting up a mule-breeding station and as John did not know that mules could not breed I was going to make a lot of money," he said.

Asked how John McCarthy would be feeling now his companion had left, Mr Keenan said: "It's like a man comes and tears your right arm off and walks away with it. I'm sure for the first few days there will be waves of feeling, up and down. But John is a very strong man now. His first thoughts will be 'It's good Brian is home. Brian is seeing my family'."

Mr Keenan was asked what he would do towards the release of Mr McCarthy. He said: "I will do anything, anything I am requested to do by the Friends of John McCarthy or anyone else asking me. I am here, ask me to help."

Mr Keenan described his time as a hostage saying: "Every day was the same and they gave you bread, processed cheese and juice or a cup of tea. In the afternoon you had a bowl of rice or lentils or a bowl of rice and spinach, or a bowl of rice and dog's head soup or some other food."

He said conditions had improved dramatically in the last nine months or so when the hostages were transferred to the southern suburbs of Beirut. Then we had an excellent canteen and we were frequently asked if we wanted anything, and if it was possible the men holding us would get it. They gave us fresh fruit and let us watch the occasional video. The situation had markedly changed."

Mr Keenan would say nothing about any escape bids which may have been made while he was a hostage. But he said he had never given up hope of getting free although he had worried about how long he would stay in captivity. "I knew I would get home or be released at some stage. But I was frightened it would be a long time. I continually told myself that they could only take

my liberty, not my freedom."

Mr Keenan said he had never encountered the leaders of the group which held him. "The top leadership was never shown to me directly. When they came they stayed in another room."

Mr Keenan indicated he was unlikely to return to his Belfast home for some days. He said he still had to have more interviews with psychiatrists and to receive dental treatment. It is thought likely he will stay in Dublin's Mater private hospital, where he has been receiving treatment since returning from the Middle East on a government jet late last Saturday night.

He met reporters yesterday in Dublin Castle, once the base of British rule in Ireland.

As he ended his news conference, Mr Keenan paid a glowing tribute to his Belfast-based sisters Brenda Gillman and Elaine Spencer, who spearheaded the intensive campaign for his release.

He said he had been dumb-struck by his sisters' work. "They have changed so much in their personalities and now I am a little bit afraid of them," he said.

After he finished speaking, Mrs Gillman presented her brother with a bodhran, a traditional Irish drum. She told him: "We have been beating the drum for you for a long time, now it's your turn." Mr Keenan also received other presentations from well-wishers, including two small sculptures.

Mr Keenan recalled during the conference that after two American hostages were released, US media reports strongly suggested that the kidnappers had given them coded tapes to take out. These reports "came within a hair's breadth of having some of the remaining hostages summarily executed," he said.

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Leading article, page 11

## Some of our captors had an element of hysteria not subject to reasoning

What we had been thinking?"

Mr McCarthy's friend Jill Morrell, who has been campaigning for his release and was seated behind Mr Keenan, broke into a bright smile when he talked about him.

Mr Keenan said he particularly cherished Mr McCarthy's irrepressible sense of humour which infected them all. He said it was "the golden kernel of John" which would always emerge through the darkness of captivity. Mr McCarthy would imitate some of the guards with "a precision and zaniness that reduced their sometimes brutality to insignificance".

Mr Keenan said: "John and I spoke at great length about our families and eventually exchanged families and friends without thinking. He would suddenly begin conversations talking about my friends as if they were his. We gave and lived inside one another."

He said they called themselves "the Bounty Bar boys" because they were occasionally given Bounty bars. At one stage they had no reading material for a year so they played 17-hour games of dominoes.

In a remark directed at the British Government, Mr Keenan

## Ulster unionists 'must willingly share power'

By JOHN WINDER

ULSTER unionists must willingly share "the very seats of power" with nationalists in any devolved form of government for the province, Alistair B. Cooke, director of the Conservative Political Centre, said in a pamphlet published by the centre yesterday.

He concludes that a secure place can be provided for nationalists in the affairs of the province, and a practical and realistic dimension incorporated permanently into the system of government. To go further would not only be unwise, but fatal to the future political stability of the province, which could be secured only by keeping Ulster firmly within the Union.

"It is of course too much to expect the Labour party to engage in any serious forethought in these matters: it will go on restating its calls for a united Ireland, in flagrant disregard of the true British national interest."

Roger Stott, MP for Wigan and

one of Labour's spokesmen on Northern Ireland, said last night that the party was far from being negative on Irish issues. The party's policy was a preference for a united Ireland, but that would not happen in the near future. In 1992 borders within the EC would cease to exist for trade purposes and agriculture, tourism, financial services and transport would come together.

In the intervening period, Labour strongly supported the efforts of Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, to move towards some kind of devolved government.

In his pamphlet Mr Cooke argues that although the difficulties of a political settlement in Northern Ireland are great, they are not insuperable so long as demands placed by Britain on unionists are reasonable and terms offered to nationalists realistic.

## Police role 'vital in appeal'

By CRAIG SETON

LAWYERS for the six men convicted of the Birmingham pub bombings believe that the role of a senior detective in the 1974 investigation of the atrocity is central to the new evidence uncovered by Devon and Cornwall police that led David Waddington, the home secretary, to refer the case to the Court of Appeal for a second time.

The new evidence from scientific tests on a police record of an interview with Richard McKenny, one of the six, suggested that not all of the notes had been taken at the same time. Although it relates to only one of the men, lawyers believe that it raises serious doubts about the conviction of all six.

Gareth Pierce, a solicitor for four of the men, has written to Allan Green, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, claiming that the new evidence casts doubt on the previous testimony of Detective Superintendent George

Reade, now retired, who was in operational charge of the 1974 investigation by West Midlands police into the pub bombings, in which 21 people died and 167 were injured.

It is understood that Mr Reade was present during part of the interview with McKenny at a police station at Morecambe, Lancashire, in November 1974 and that he testified that notes of the interview were contemporaneous.

The six alleged at their first appeal in 1987 that a log of interrogations kept by Mr Reade, called the "Reade schedule", was used by the prosecution to show that allegedly fabricated accounts of interviews with the men had been taken contemporaneously and were consistent. The appeal court rejected the contention and said that the men's convictions were safe.

Lawyers for the six men, McKenny, Gerard Hunter, Patrick Hill, Hugh Callaghan, John

Walker and Billy Power, believe that the "Reade schedule" is back under a spotlight.

Ivan Geffen, a solicitor for Richard McKenny and Gerard Hunter, said yesterday: "If there is now evidence that one of the records of interviews was changed, as there appears to be, then the credibility of claims that notes were contemporaneous are less clear. The prosecution case depended on police officers being believed."

Mr Geffen wrote yesterday asking the home secretary to exercise his power to release the six men under licence and ensure that their case was heard by the appeal court as soon as possible so that they could be granted bail. He has also written asking the DPP to say whether the appeal will be contested.

Mr Geffen is concerned that a contested case could take several more months to come to court. He has written to the Court of Appeal asking for legal aid for his clients.

## Probation service 'must be more accountable'

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE probation service must remain essentially locally based but should be more publicly accountable and efficient, the Central Council of Probation Committees says in a report yesterday.

The study by the probation service's senior management advisory body says that organisational changes are urgently needed. The effect of any change should, however, be to strengthen rather than dilute the 56 committees which run probation services in England and Wales.

To that end, it says, committees should be given powers to hold financial balances, give grants to voluntary bodies providing services such as drugs or alcohol counselling to offenders, and be able to determine the number of probation officers employed locally. In return, the membership of committees, at present dominated by judges and magistrates, would be broadened and their size

reduced to improve their management effectiveness. At present, 30 per cent of places on probation committees are reserved for people co-opted from business, local authorities and voluntary agencies and some have as many as 60 members. The report recommends a 50:50 balance between sentencers and other members and committees having no more than 25 members.

The emphasis the report places on improving accountability and efficiency will be welcomed by the government, which set identical goals for the service in a green paper on the probation service published in February.

Ministers will also be pleased with its clear statement that the aim of the service is to "reduce reoffending and help prevent crime". The report emphasises, however, that probation work should continue to be based on social work skills and principles.

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# Industrial tribunal success causes over-run on budget

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

INDUSTRIAL tribunals in England and Wales have run out of money because of a huge rise in their workload. The tribunals, which deal with tens of thousands of cases a year on matters such as unfair dismissal or sexual discrimination at work, are proving to be victims of their own success. The tribunals are a judicial forum in which claims are intended to be dealt with quickly and cheaply. However, their workload now means that backlogs may take up all of next year's court time.

Ten days ago, Judge West-Russell, president of industrial tribunals for England and Wales, announced an embargo on the use of part-time chairmen hearing cases in industrial tribunals in an effort to bring them within their budgets. However, it is estimated that will mean a reduction of up to 40 per cent in the number of cases that can be heard.

Michael Rich, chairman of the southern regional area, which has courts in Southampton, Reading and Brighton, said: "The issue is not political, but the consequences could have a political impact in the embarrassment it will cause any government. Unless extra funds are provided for part-time chairmen and lay members, the backlog caused by the embargo will not only continue but will increase."

The cost of running the tribunals is about £10 million a year. The part-time chairmen are paid £190 a day and lay members receive £89 a day.

The Department of Employment said yesterday that reducing the use of part-time chairmen was aimed at all "overspent" regions, which meant every region in England and Wales except Nottingham. "It is hoped that by taking early action to temporarily limit the number of hearings, tribunals will bring themselves back in balance," a spokesman said.

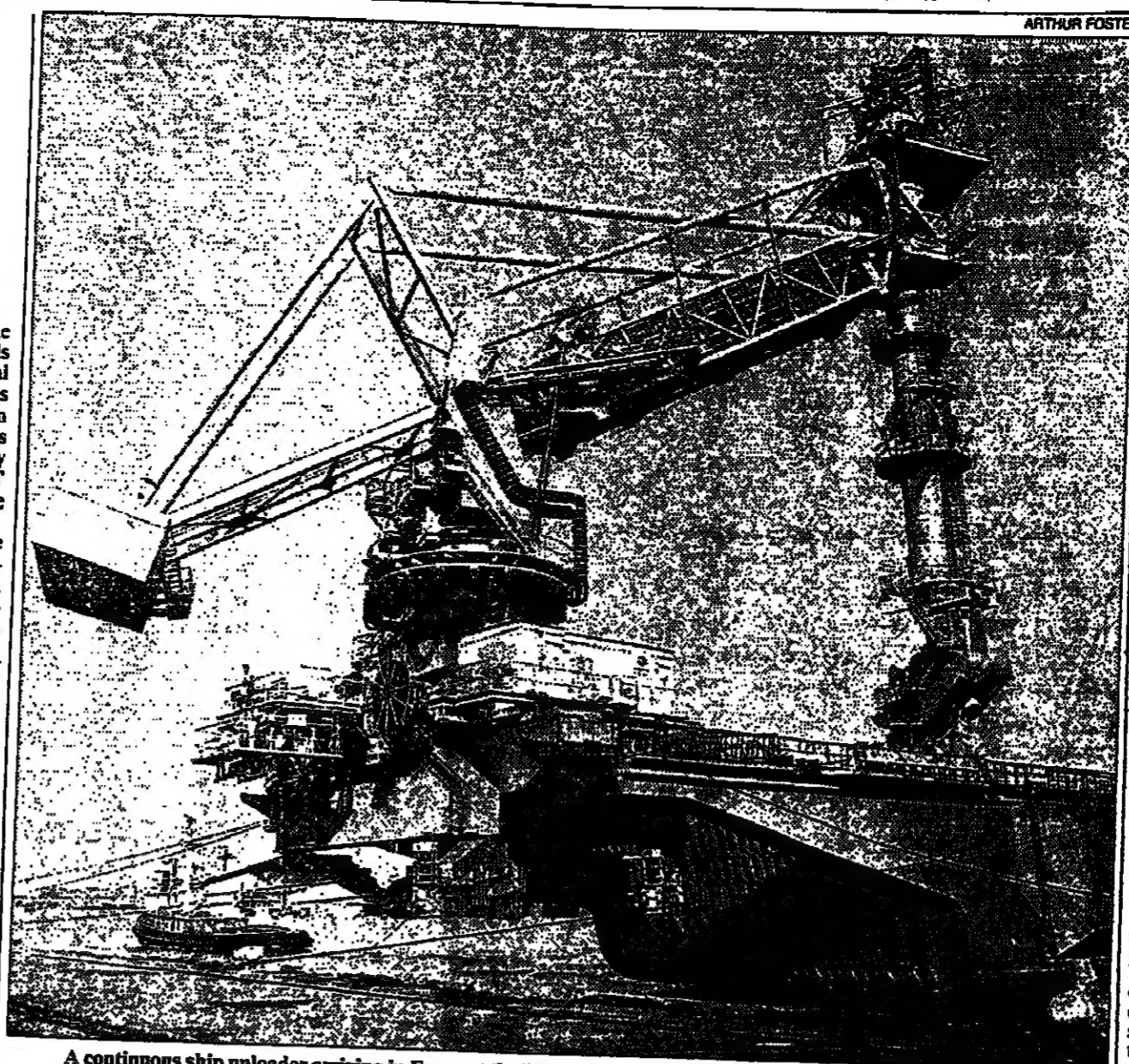
Industrial tribunals received 31,356 cases in 1989/90. Some 19,000 were withdrawn or settled, but that still left tribunals deciding 9,000. The figure represents a big rise on the previous year, when 26,000 were received and some 7,600 were decided.

Christopher Diamond, secretary of the Council on Tribunals, said yesterday that the rising workload of tribunals was a general trend. "In global terms, the number of cases dealt with by all tribunals in England and Wales exceeds one million, which is broadly equivalent of the magistrates' courts and far exceeds the county courts," he said.

It was true that to some extent the tribunals were victims of their own success. "Some tribunals, such as industrial tribunals, are criticised for being over-legalistic, but that is only a consequence of the very complex law they have to administer," Mr Diamond said. However, they coped with such law "without any undue formality".

"Although there is no legal aid for tribunals, and people bringing claims can be at a disadvantage against companies with in-house lawyers, the tribunals tend to bend over backwards to help unrepresented appellants," he said.

In general, people got satisfaction from the tribunals, "even though that does not necessarily mean they get what they want, because tribunals can only act in accordance with the law".



A continuous ship unloader arriving in Essex at the West Thurrock power station after travelling by barge from Finland. The machine doubles unloading capacity, being capable of moving 1,500 tons of coal an hour

## Car men asked to give up holiday

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

ROVER has offered 14,000 workers more than £450 each to work through a week's holiday to cope with demand for the company's cars.

Management yesterday asked staff at the Longbridge plant in Birmingham to give up their September break so that the assembly lines could produce up to 4,000 extra cars, worth £39 million.

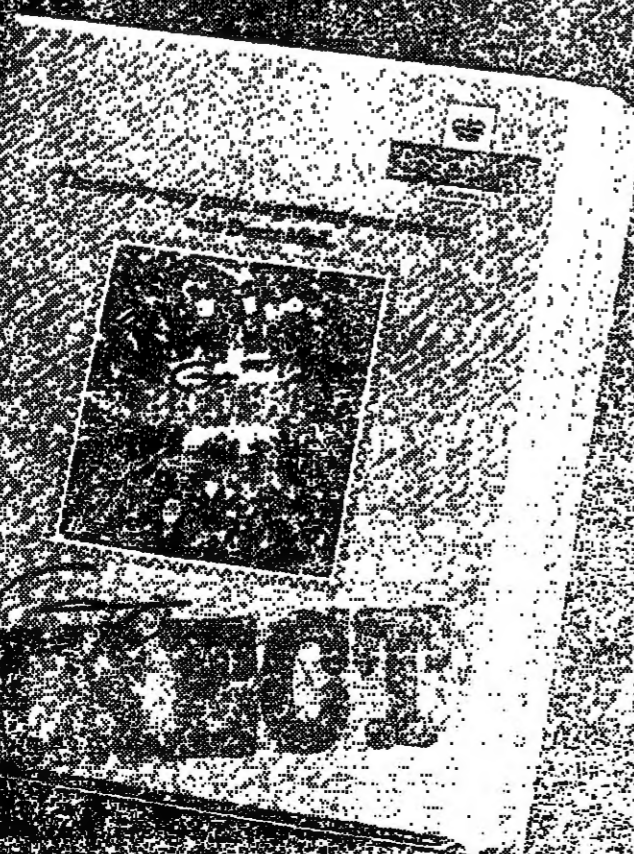
The company is due to launch its Rover 200 hatchbacks and 400 saloons on the Continent and needs stocks to supply dealers. However, demand also exceeds supply in Britain.

The company is offering a week's wages, a week's holiday pay plus an incentive bonus of £50, adding up to about £450, to assembly line staff who volunteer to give up the autumn break.

The scheme is an indication of the reversal of fortunes at the Midlands-based car firm. Ten years ago, as the state-owned BL corporation, the company was struggling for survival. Now Rover exports a third of production, worth about £1 billion annually, and is the largest car manufacturer in the UK.

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## Scientists make light brighter than Sun

THE brightest sunlight in the solar system has been created in a laboratory at the University of Chicago. Using optical devices, a team of physicists has concentrated sunlight by a factor of 84,000 to produce light intensities greater than those at the surface of the Sun (Nigel Hawkes writes).

At the heart of their experiment is a sapphire crystal which acts as a funnel for light. Unlike devices based on lenses, whose abilities to concentrate light are limited, it does not produce an image. The end of the crystal where the light enters is relatively broad, the other, where it emerges having been reflected inside the crystal, is narrow.

The input light comes from a mirror 40 centimetres across. Together, the devices can produce a light intensity over a very small area of 72 watts per square millimetre, compared with the intensity at the surface of the Sun of 63 watts per square millimetre.

Writing in *Nature*, the Chicago team say that the concentrator device might form the first stage of a solar-driven laser. Its output would be fed into a laser rod, which would produce a narrow focused beam of a fixed wavelength.

Dave Cooke, a team member, said yesterday that such a laser could be used for communication between satellites at high temperatures, or for destroying toxic waste. "You would take the waste into the desert, and point a high-power ultra-violet laser at it," he said. "That would cause the dangerous chemicals to dissociate into harmless ones."

## Viking skull is given a facelift

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE face of a Viking fisherman has been reconstructed from a thousand-year-old skull to create an accurate impression of his features. When complete, the model will go on display in the British Museum of Natural History.

The skull, which was discovered in a dig in Fishergate in 1986, was sent to University College Hospital, London, to be measured by a laser scanning device normally used to forecast the results of facial surgery. The reflections of the laser light from the contours of the skull were recorded by a video camera and fed to a computer containing information about the likely thickness of muscle around the skull.

Robin Richards, of the department of medical physics at University College, who supervised the process, then allowed his own head to be scanned to superimpose and "flesh out" the skull. Computerised graphics then produced an image of how the Viking must have looked, and a milling machine, controlled by the computer, used the images to carve a half-scale model of the head from a block of hard foam.

From this, the final life-size head will be sculpted. It should be closer to the original Vikings than models already in the museum. Peter Addyman, director of the trust, said: "Now we can look forward to a street peopled with Viking-age citizens who would be recognised by their friends."

## Cost of long-haul holidays to fall

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

LONG-distance holidays are tumbling in price as airlines and tour operators discover new destinations to tempt the jaded palates of British holiday-makers.

Lufthansa is to begin services to Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam from October and plans to offer tourists from London cut-price return fares via Frankfurt of about £850. The airline is working with tour operators on a holiday package.

At the same time Thomson Holidays is selling a seven-night package to Peking, including transfers and accommodation in a hotel off Tiananmen Square, for a basic price of £429, even though the cheapest bookable return fare on British Airways costs £751. A full club-class return fare costs £2,097.

While the cost of long-haul holidays comes down, the price of shorter-distance holidays to traditional Mediterranean resorts are to increase. Families heading for the Mediterranean will find that prices have risen by an average of 9 per cent compared with this year's brochure prices.

Holidays in the Caribbean, Thailand and Kenya will on average be 6 per cent cheaper in a year's time, with some costing as much as 30 per cent less.

According to Thomson Holidays, which commands 33 per cent of the package

holiday market, the reason for the change in prices is a combination of currency exchange rates, the increased use of charter aircraft on long flights and the growing ability of large tour operators to force down hotel prices by block booking thousands of rooms.

Steve Garley, programme director of Thomson's Worldwide Holidays section, said: "The chances of a tour operator finding a hotel in the Mediterranean that is prepared to cut its prices have long since gone. In the Far East, Africa and even America, however, mass tourism is only now beginning to take off, and with the strength of a company of our size behind them our representatives have been able to force down prices substantially."

As a result, one package holiday in St Lucia will cost 30 per cent less than it did this summer while Kenya will in general be 10 per cent cheaper and Thailand between 5 and 10 per cent less expensive than it was this year. The number of traditional sun, sand and sea holidays could fall next year while long-haul holidays double.

"This year we sold around 3,000 holidays to Kenya, but expect that to have risen to more than 10,000 next year," Mr Garley said. "The people who have taken this kind of holiday tend to be older with no children or mortgages to worry about."



By PETER VICTOR

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наши менеджеры готовы,

"If anything, he was naive. If he had to go back and do it all again, he would take a great deal more legal advice."

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

"Juries have consistently produced verdicts which are sensible, responsible and entirely just," it says.

However, the report calls for steps to improve the efficiency of jury trials in

It accepts that savings of time and money could be made if complex fraud cases were tried by a fraud trials tribunal, but argues that the overall saving would not be as great as has been claimed.

Four debutantes, from left, Dominique Antoniou, Alison Morrow, Harriet Cox and Tanya Gerber, meet to publicise the Queen Charlotte's birthday ball to be held on Monday. The charity event has become the traditional start to the debs' season

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

Capping orders published last month required Lambeth to cut its £285.1 million budget by £8.8 million, which

Lambeth says it will produce evidence that its decision to revise its collection rate was based on information that was available to councillors when it set its original charge on March 79.

**By TIM JONES**  
EMPLOYMENT  
CORRESPONDENT

1

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

million in the following year. Mr Howard said that there was massive potential for revolutionising attitudes to training and improving the quality of provision for young people. He added that the

2

[illegible]

**By TOM GILES**

The Royal Society for the protection of Birds said the effects of the dry summer could not be assessed until next year but wading birds such as snipe and redshank were likely to have suffered.

Deborah Baker, another quine expert, estimated that, each year, about 175 horses die or have to be put down because of injuries suffered in harness races. The death

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

Deborah Baker, another equine expert, estimated that, each year, about 175 horses die or have to be put down because of injuries suffered in harness racing. The death

● Vets are facing an increasing number of claims for dam-

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100

**THE  TIMES**

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# 'Pik' Botha warns party faithful there is no going back

FROM GAVIN BELL IN DURBAN

SUPPORTERS of South Africa's ruling National party yesterday for the first time began the painful task of disowning apartheid and considering how to share government with the black majority.

The party's Natal provincial congress in Durban is the first since President de Klerk launched his reform initiative in February, and the mood and remarks of delegates reflected solid support for the transformation he has brought about.

If there was unease about the rapid pace of change and uncertainty about the future, it was not apparent. A succession of speakers praised an optimistic speech by R.F. "Pik" Botha, the foreign minister, who declared that the party had reached the point of no return. To prolonged applause he said: "We have a new future in a new South Africa. There is no way that we can turn back without destroying ourselves. There are a lot of rewards if we carry on."

Citing a supportive editorial in *The Times*, he added: "We might not smell like roses, but we are not the polecat of the world any more."

Mr de Klerk, who addresses the congress today, seems assured of the mandate from rank-and-file members which he badly needs to pursue negotiations with the African National Congress and other black organisations. He is aware that it is not simply a party matter. Having lost considerable support to the right wing, he must retain a

proven constituency to lead whites into a post-apartheid society.

Tactics on the agenda include opening the party to all races and forging alliances with moderate black leaders, notably Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Zulu leader. After Mr de Klerk's speech the congress will consider a proposal to allow dual or associated party membership with Chief Buthelezi's Inkatha party.

By the time of the last of four National party provincial congresses, in Pretoria on November 20, the party that created apartheid could well have decided to become multiracial in association with other groups that share its vision of the future.

Dr Gerrit Viljoen, the constitutional development minister and the government's chief negotiator, recently confirmed that there were plans to form a broad-based coalition with parties that held common principles. He said steps would be taken in this direction during the current talks about talks with some black leaders to establish a mechanism for negotiating a new constitution.

Dr Viljoen believes such a forum could be in place by early next year, and that it could agree on constitutional reforms within two years. He is expected to outline government strategy at the congress today, but delegates hoping for specifics are likely to be disappointed. The party leadership has made it clear that it is not yet prepared to move

beyond stating principles, in view of past failures to get negotiations going because it was seen to be dictating to other parties.

George Bartlett, the transport and public works minister and party chief in Natal, appealed to members not to allow past prejudices to cloud visions of the future, offering as inspiration an unprecedented unity of purpose in the parliamentary caucus.

If there were doubters in his audience, Lorrain Kritzingar was not among them. A retired mayor and Afrikaner school principal, and a lifelong party stalwart in rural Kliprivier, he has nevertheless come to terms with the inevitability of change. "For the Afrikaner, apartheid was a question of survival," he said. "It was far from normal, but a whole generation grew up like this. In the end it was futile. At least now we recognise that, and we're being honest about our mistakes. You know, if I had said that a couple of years ago, I'd have been labelled a damn liberal."

JOHANNESBURG: The ANC is considering buying the liberal *Johannesburg Daily Mail*, which is facing closure less than three months after it was first published because of severe financial difficulties (Ray Kennedy writes).

The newspaper, the first privately owned, politically independent English-language daily to have been launched in South Africa in 40 years, has achieved a circulation of only 11,000 against its break-even target of 30,000.



Students carrying a memorial wreath during a march to mourn the five young people who have been murdered in Gainesville, Florida, since Sunday

## Mohawks take down barricades

FROM JOHN BEST IN OTTAWA

THE barricades have started coming down at a bridge near Montreal blocked by Mohawk Indians for seven weeks, amid hopes for an end to an armed clash between Mohawks and the Army.

Negotiations were still in progress yesterday aimed at dismantling other Mohawk barricades at Oka, Quebec, 30 miles west of Montreal. The breakthrough at the Mercier Bridge, which spans the St

Lawrence river at Montreal, occurred late on Wednesday just as the army was preparing an assault on two Indian barricades.

Suddenly, instead of troops and Mohawk warriors firing at each other in the bloody shoot-out had been feared, they were joining together in taking one of the barricades apart. Work on dismantling the second soon followed. The unexpected dev-

elopment apparently was the result of last-minute negotiations between army officers and Mohawk representatives to avert an armed showdown. The confrontation was rooted in unresolved Indian land claims. The Mohawks appear to have been persuaded that their concerns, including protection against reprisals, would be dealt with in negotiations yesterday at a hotel in Dorval, Quebec.

## Florida gripped by fear as five students killed

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

WHEN Ted Bundy was executed in Florida last year, local radio stations appealed for people to switch off domestic appliances to create a surge of power for the electric chair, and a crowd of 2,000 outside the jail cheered his death.

Bundy, the worst convicted serial killer in American history, had confessed to killing 31 women across America, including two students during a rampage on a campus in Tallahassee, Florida.

The Sunshine State had hoped that Bundy's much-publicised death would deter future maniacs from disturbing its tranquil hedonism. But the killing of five students in Gainesville since Sunday has started the search for a murderer being now almost universally described as "another Bundy".

John Douglas, an FBI agent whose detective career reaches back from Bundy to the 1970s "Son of Sam" murderer David Berkowitz and the 1960s cult killer Charles Manson, has been brought in to investigate, and experts in that peculiarly American specialty of mass murder are volunteering their opinions about the psychological profile of the killer.

"We've asked for all the people that worked on the Ted Bundy case," said the Gainesville police chief, Wayland Clifton Jr. "We have a serial or lust killer at large."

As students flee the normally fun-loving college town in northern Florida, police are compiling a psychological identikit of the murderer, whom they describe as a "methodical maniac".

The five victims have been killed in three separate attacks at off-campus lodgings since Sunday. Four of them - Christina Powell, Christina Hoyt, Sonya Larson and Tracy Pauls - were petite, dark-haired young women. The fifth was a male student named Manuel Toboada, who shared digs with Miss Pauls.

"There is a similarity in physical appearance in the four female victims as far as hair colour, eye colour and general physical build," Mr Clifton said. "It looks as though this killer is methodi-

cal," he added. "It's not someone who does not know what he is doing."

The killer apparently followed certain types of women and slipped into their homes through unlocked doors or windows or by forcing sliding glass doors. Three of the victims were stabbed and the other two bludgeoned to death with a blunt instrument.

Police have refused to confirm local newspaper reports that one victim was sliced from the pelvis to the chest and decapitated and her head left on a shelf in her flat. The breasts of two other victims were reportedly mutilated, and several of the women were bound with tape.

The preferred theory is that the murderer is a white man, older than his victims, who has a history of violence. Mr Alexander Bassin, a criminologist at Florida State University, where Bundy killed two female students, said he saw "an absolutely chilling resemblance" between the two cases.

Ms Ann Rule, a former workmate of Bundy's who went on to write a book on him, told *USA Today* that, while the victims were similar to the women Bundy killed, the Gainesville murderer was a "spree killer" rather than a "serial killer".

"A spree killer falls halfway between a mass murderer, someone who kills everybody in one fell swoop and usually dies as a suicide or shot by police, and a serial killer, who kills over a long time," she said. "In the middle, you have the spree killer, who kills someone every day, usually for two or three weeks or a month, until they catch him."

Gainesville is now alive with police in search of the killer, and the red-beret-wearing Guardian Angels vigilante group has sent a special team from Tampa. At least a quarter of the town's 34,000 students have fled, and many of those that remain are arming themselves. Shops selling door chains and deadlocks have sold out. Delivery boys are finding their job almost impossible, with terrified customers confronting them with guns and baseball bats.

## Talks next month on global warming pact

FROM MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT, IN SUNDSVALL, SWEDEN

PRELIMINARY negotiations on a world treaty to counter the greenhouse effect will begin in Geneva next month following agreement reached between 75 nations here yesterday that the threat to the Earth from global warming is real.

At a meeting of the UN-sponsored Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in this small industrial town in northern Sweden, the national governments of all the world's principal industrialised countries, including Britain, endorsed the solemn warning about climate change given in May by the IPCC's working group of meteorologists, chaired by John Houghton, director-general of Britain's Meteorological Office.

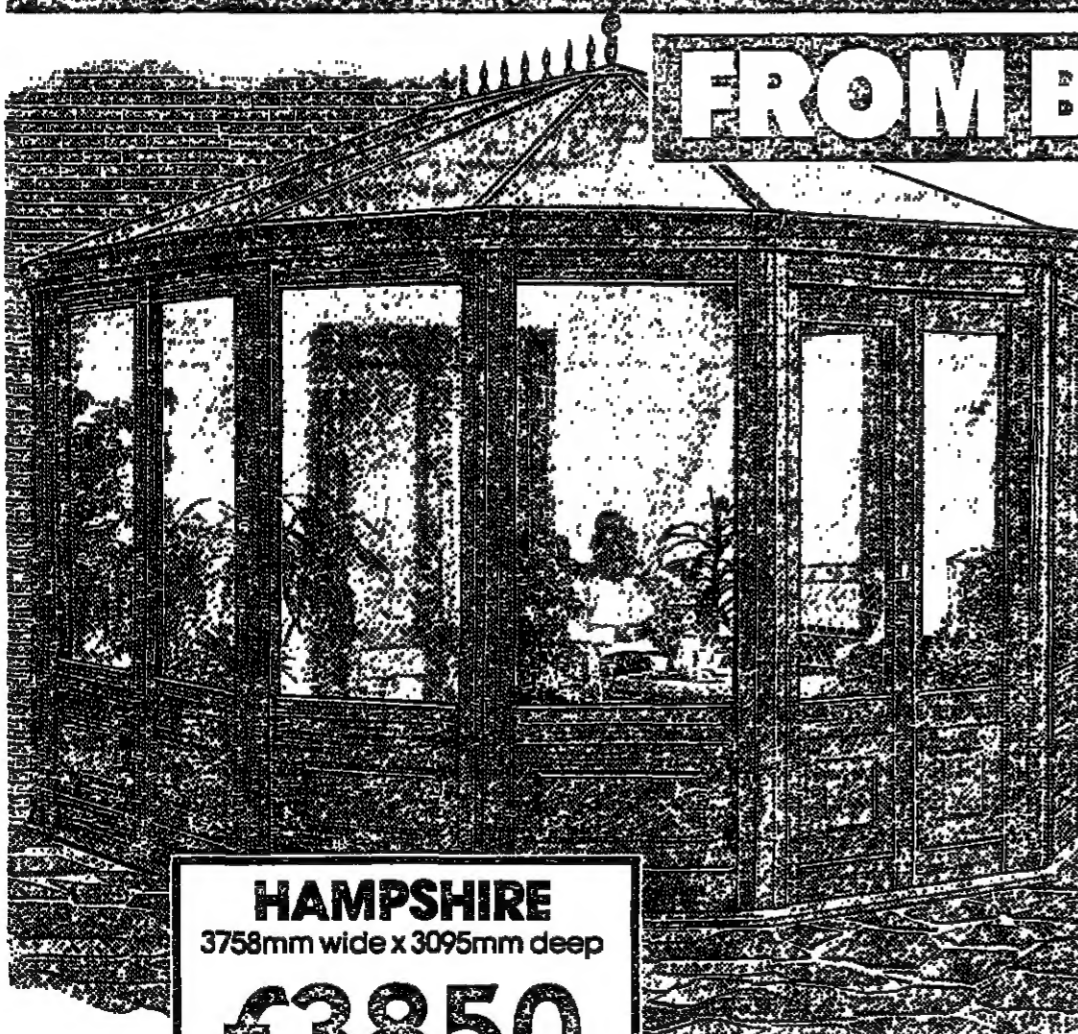
Dr Houghton, speaking for the world's 300 leading atmospheric scientists, said that if economies continue business as usual, global warming, caused by gases such as carbon dioxide from coal-fired power stations and motor vehicles

will cause temperatures to rise more rapidly than at any time for 10,000 years.

Significantly, the formal acceptance of this warning was agreed to by the United States, which has long sought to emphasise the lack of scientific evidence for global warming. Late last night US negotiators were still trying to lessen the commitment to action in the final document. But the agreement already reached on the scientific evidence will now be used as a basis for negotiating a framework convention on the atmosphere, with the ultimate aim of worldwide reduction of carbon dioxide emissions.

The framework convention will be followed by individual protocols dealing with greenhouse gases and with the preservation of forests, which take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. Preliminary negotiations on the convention will begin in Geneva on September 24 under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme.

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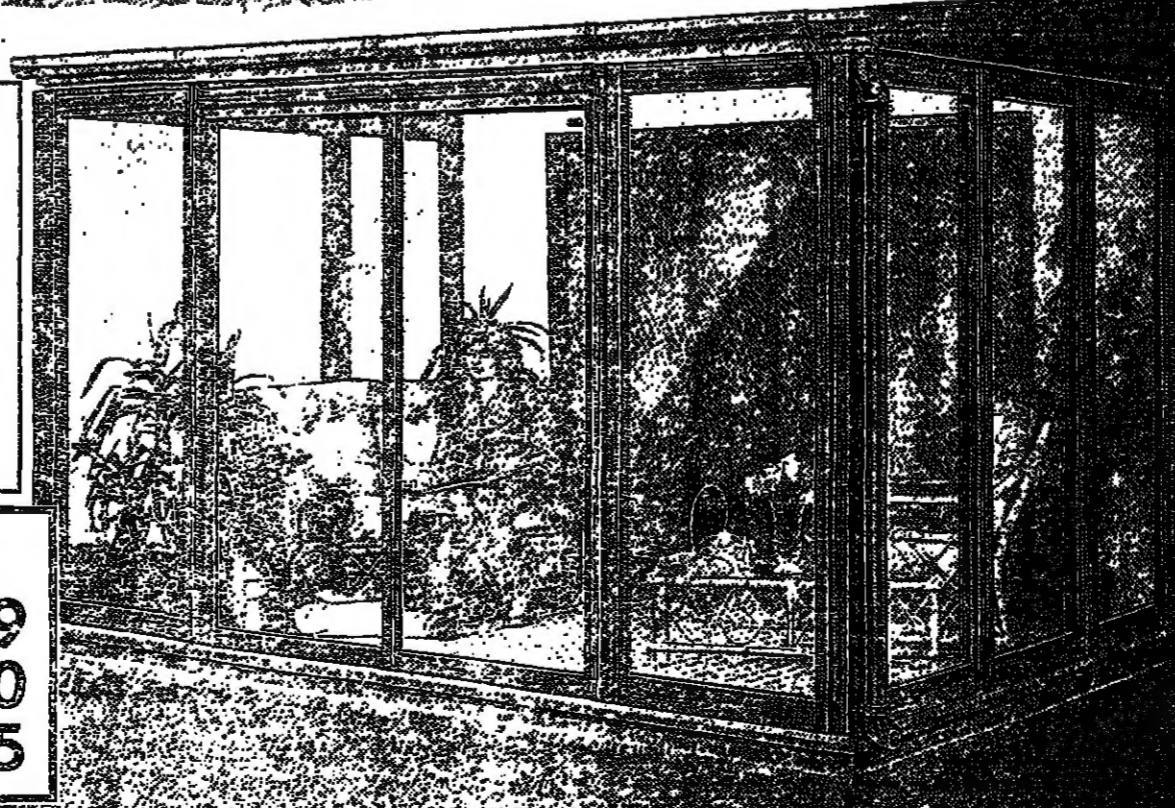
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# Ten years on, Polish leadership still fears workers of Gdansk

FROM ROGER BOYES IN GDANSK

BOMBARDED by criticism from Gdansk shipyard workers yesterday, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the prime minister, raised his hands and appealed on behalf of the Solidarity government: "Trust us! Give us time!"

But time appears to be running out for the leadership that forced the communists out of power a year ago. Mr Mazowiecki's return to the shipyard, the cradle of Solidarity, was supposed to be a tenth birthday gesture, a way of acknowledging his political roots. Instead he and several cabinet ministers were given a rough ride. In many hours of hurried debate it became plain that the Mazowiecki government is almost as afraid of the workers as were its communist predecessors.

The attack was led by Zbigniew Lis, one of the worker leaders in the yard. "There is unemployment, a lack of direction, black marketeers are having a field day, scandals are erupting throughout the government, the old communist bosses are coming back and buying up joint ventures. The rich are just getting richer. As for the workers, we haven't any savings any more."

The litany of complaint echoed through the meeting hall where ten years ago today the Gdansk Agreement was signed. This paved the way for the legalisation of the first free trade union in the communist world. A few metres away is the shipyard canteen where Mr Mazowiecki and Lech Walesa, the Solidarity chairman, slept alongside strikers waiting for the riot police to charge in 1988. All the most significant defeats of Polish communism were staged in

this yard, and it was Solidarity that created the present government. But neither the union, nor the shipyards, are coping comfortably with the move towards a free market.

Mr Walesa earlier in the day captured, indeed capitalised on the despairing mood of the workers. "I'm afraid, very frightened, because people are really fed up — and that's because the workers don't have a proper share in events. This may end tragically, indeed it is certain to do so if nothing happens soon," he said. The main failure of the government was that it "had failed to devise a model of social participation that would include the workers". Mr Walesa was notably absent from yesterday's meeting, though he is expected to dominate today's celebrations which mark the actual anniversary of the Gdansk Agreement.

Mr Mazowiecki had surrounded himself with his more robust ministers — the ex-dissident Jacek Kuron, now minister of employment, the burly, bearded Tadeusz Strykowski, the industry minister and the bright, redvoiced Aleksander Hall, the minister in charge of liaising with the opposition. Out of respect for the workers, they had left their sleek blue Lancias outside the yards.

"We're simply a poor country," said Mr Strykowski in the most unpopular speech of a troubled day, "and this poverty of ours is made up of bad organisation and poor production, the heritage of 40 years of communism. We can start turning back the tide but it takes time."

The dissolving patience of the working class, will be the

trickiest dilemma facing the post-communist states as they try to inject market elements into their economies. Mr Mazowiecki appealed to the sentiment of place. "It was here that the foundations of democracy were laid, and it is here that we now want to build a new mutual understanding."

Gdansk, scene of bloody clashes in December 1970, of the 1980 Solidarity agreement and then of the 1988 strikes that pushed the communists towards a round-table agreement, knows its value.

As the prime minister, flanked by bodyguards, strolled around the yards yesterday it became obvious that the yards have very specific complaints. Above all the workers are angry about the way that the sprawling shipbuilding centre has been hived off to foreign joint ventures, which often include former communist managers on their staff.

Mr Mazowiecki promised greater worker ownership when the yard is fully privatised. But chiefly, he promised only pain and sacrifice and the workers left grim-faced.



Tears of memory are shed by a disabled war veteran at the 46th anniversary celebration in Banska Bystrica, Czechoslovakia, of a Slovak uprising against the German occupation

# Armenian rebels surrender guns

FROM NICK WORRELL IN MOSCOW

SWIFT action by President Levon Ter-Petrosian of Soviet Armenia in having the republic's biggest unofficial armed group disarmed and dispersed after an MP was shot dead on Wednesday seems for the moment to have averted the possibility of further violence in the capital, Yerevan.

Hours after the president declared a state of emergency in Armenia and a night curfew in the city, the republic's interior ministry forces staged a 2.30 am raid on the city centre headquarters of the self-styled Armenian National Army. Reports from Yerevan said about 250 men surrendered their weapons. There were also reports from other centres of ANA members handing in their guns.

But some reports suggested that a number of armed partisans had fled the building earlier, making their way into the hills outside the city, possibly to join other armed groups yet to declare loyalty to President Ter-Petrosian and his nationalist parliament.

Up to six people were believed to have been killed on Wednesday including supreme soviet deputy Viktor Aivazyan when the ANA clashed with members of another armed group loyal to the Armenian All-National Movement, of which the president is leader. The MP was trying to persuade members of the ANA to stop firing

at fellow-Armenians when he was shot dead. According to Tass, President Ter-Petrosian told parliament yesterday that the ANA's leaders had surrendered. Sources in Yerevan said the ANA's overall commander, Razmik Vasilian, his deputy Vardan Vardanian and another senior officer were in the council of ministers building preparing a communication to all members of the organisation saying the ANA had decided to disband itself and calling upon them to surrender to the authorities. The appeal was broadcast later on Armenian television.

Moving fast to stem inter-group violence, Mr Ter-Petrosian had given the ANA's casually dressed and heavily armed irregulars until 8 pm on Wednesday night to hand in their guns. When the curfew began two hours later and there had been no response he ordered the troops who seized weapons, vehicles and explosives. Mr Ter-Petrosian is reported to have said that not a single shot was fired during the operation.

President Gorbachev must have been pleased with the swift effectiveness of the Armenian president's response to the ANA revolt. The Soviet leader is anxious not to send in Soviet troops, a move which could escalate the present low-level civil war between Armenians and Azerbaijanis in the Caucasus.

# Bonn deadlock over abortion

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN EAST BERLIN

WEST Germany's political parties were still locked in disagreement yesterday over abortion laws in the future united Germany, less than 24 hours before the unity treaty defining the terms of the merger is due to be signed.

Despite two rounds of talks, a meeting with Helmut Kohl, the West German chancellor, and weeks of consultation with legal and theological experts they failed to reach a consensus but agreed to extend the discussions into the night. The Catholic-domi-

nated Christian Democrats (CDU) have backed down on plans to prosecute West German women who take advantage of the more liberal laws of the East after unification and agreed to the Social Democrats' (SPD) and Free Democrats' (FDP) proposals of a transitional period of different laws in the two parts of Germany.

The CDU, however, wants this restricted to two years to emphasise that its acceptance of transitional arrangements does not mean a weakening of its anti-abortion stance. The Social Democrats, however, say that a five-year stand-off is necessary to allow a full revision of the laws.

The issue is a decisive one in election year, particularly in the Catholic south.

The unity treaty is to be signed today by the West German interior minister, Wolfgang Schäuble, and the head of the East German negotiation team, Günter Krause, in East Berlin.

When the two countries unify on October 3 there will be nothing to prevent West German women travelling across the former border for abortions, escaping the rigorous screening and compulsory advisory processes needed in West Germany.

Birgit Miehke, an East Berlin gynaecologist who has campaigned against the introduction of West German legislation, said yesterday that she was already receiving enquiries from West Berlin women asking if abortions could be carried out in the East rather than taking the journey known as the "abortion train" to the liberal Netherlands to have terminations performed.

# Peace talks for Koreans

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN SEOUL

FULL agreement was reached yesterday between South and North Korea officials on preparations for unprecedented talks between the two prime ministers next week.

The agreement cleared the way for th3 North Korean prime minister, Yon Hyon Muk, and six other North Korean delegates to cross the border for four days of talks in Seoul starting on Tuesday.

The two prime ministers are figureheads with little decision-making power, but the meeting could be a first step toward mutual recognition.

The talks would be the highest contact ever between the hostile nations, divided since 1945.

The last formal talks between officials of the two governments were in 1985, about a limited exchange of members of families who had been separated.

# Sydney murder charges

Sydney — A neighbour taunting a man for being on the dole is alleged to have provoked the shotgun killing of five people in Sydney yesterday. The taunting neighbour was the first victim in New South Wales's worst murder. A Sydney court was told (Robert Cockburn writes). The three men and two women who died were shot in the head at close range. Paul Evers, aged 35, has been remanded in custody accused of five murders.

# Liberia standby

Monrovia — The West African peacekeeping force in Liberia is preparing to evacuate thousands of West African nationals by sea from the country, the force's commander said. General Arnold Quainoo said that more than 7,000 people, mostly from Nigeria, Ghana and Guinea, had so far registered for evacuation. (Reuters)

# Killer blasts

Beirut — Two bombs hidden in a military truck at an army barracks manned by troops of General Michel Aoun in Lebanon's Christian enclave killed four soldiers and three policemen and wounded 15 others, security sources said. Eight of the injured are still in hospital. (Reuters)

# Trafficker held

Bogotá — Colombian police have arrested a suspected drug-trafficker wanted for extradition to the United States, the first "extraditable" held since President César Gaviria took office on August 7. They said they arrested Sergio Restrepo in Medellín, known as Colombia's cocaine capital. (Reuters)

# Leader cleared

Quito — The Ecuadorian Supreme Court has cleared former President León Febres Cordero of embezzlement of \$150,000 (£77,000) after a 16-month investigation. The court also exonerated other officials of the Febres Cordero administration, including his son-in-law, Miguel Orellana. (Reuters)

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# Out out, brief batsman

Philip Howard

Philippus: I see that a cricketing philosopher writes: "One-day cricket has produced some marvellous finishes in 1990."

Timocrates: That is our world for you: briefness is all. No longer *Finis coronat opus*. *Finis* is the only thing that matters. Let's get to the end quickly. Let's have it at the beginning. Shakespeare should have known better. Nobody wants a play in five acts these days. All you need is two, so that there's an interval for drinks. Three at the very most (the second interval for chocolates). *Hamlet* is a monstrous length. Fortunately a modern producer can bring it to a close in the middle of Act III. Scene 3. *Hamlet*, who happens to have a sword in his hand, finds Claudius at prayer, with his back towards him. *Hamlet*: "Now might I do it, and now, by God, I do." (He does. Curtain.) If only Shakespeare hadn't wandered so.

Philippus: I get your drift, Master. The procrastinating Prince of Denmark was once summed up in a New Statesman competition: "Prince Hamlet thought Uncle a Traitor / For having it off with his Mother / Revenge Dad or not? / That's the gist of the plot, / And he did — nine soliloquies later." *Learn* could have been shortened by more than half if he had stuck to the point, and not got bogged down with Gloucester, Edmund, and the wicked sisters with their husbands. When you have two women doing a horrid-as-you-can-be-I-can-be-fouler act, every scene has to be played twice.

Timocrates: The essential theme of the play is the difficulty of bringing up daughters out-of-doors in inclement weather. All the rest should be cut as irrelevant.

Philippus: Other nations seem to have a longer attention span than we do. The Japanese have been serialising *Tokuga-Wa Ieyasu* by Shogun Yamaguchi in their daily newspapers since 1951. Now that it has finally wound up its weary end, the novel is going into hardback, which will occupy 40 volumes. Now that's what I call a good solid holiday read to make you forget the midges and bores of darkest Ayrshire.

Timocrates: The allegedly volatile French have far more concentration than we. Foundings do. Their longest literary novel, *Les Hommes de Bon Volonté* by Louis Farigou, alias Jules Romains, takes 27 volumes, more than two million words, and has a 100-page index. It makes Dickens and Walter Scott look laconic.

Philippus: I have often thought that a good test for British journalists would be to be made to summarise the whole of the Bible. Old and New Testaments, in 1,000 words, then 500, then 100, and then a 15-character tabloid headline. We should be jolly good at it.

Timocrates: If Wagner had given Walther the Prize Song to sing in

the first act, instead of *Am stillen Herz*, we should be out of *Meister-singer* three-and-a-half hours earlier. It was prototype Homer who started the whole thing on the wrong foot, with his poem in 24 books, following it up with another poem of 24 books. The result is that nobody reads him in our brisk new world.

Philippus: If anyone reads poetry at all now, it is limited to haiku, or else poems of five lines, as popularised by Edward Lear. The only man who could get away with an imaginative work in 48 sections these days is J.S. Bach, maybe.

Timocrates: Let us get back to these "marvellous finishes" in one-day cricket, and how to contrive them. Let us cut out all the tedious stuff that takes place between gulping down a hurried breakfast and the incipient failure of the light. Bring the finish on at once. And if the match lasts only 15 minutes, play another one, and another one, till the crowd has had enough. Nobody has ever discovered when the crowd has had enough of mini-cricket. My shrimp cricket could test our modern taste for haste.

Philippus: Why do you call it shrimp cricket, O Timocrates? Timocrates: Because it's potted, of course. In shrimp cricket the sides bat for two overs of six balls each. A batsman receives three balls only, a vague imitation of the practice in baseball. At the start, the non-striking batsman is the next to bat. A team consists of six men. At least four bowlers must bowl at least two balls each in an innings. There are no fielders on the off, and the batsman is not allowed to score on the off unless, when he strikes the ball, he has both feet outside a line which is the projection of the return crease.

The wicket is pitched 10 yards from the off boundary and the front row of spectators, and parallel to it. The closeness of the public to the play is another arrangement taken from baseball, as our general impatience with anything that lasts more than 10 minutes is taken from the United States. The spectators can not only see, but they can also hear what the captain says to the umpire, a facility that would be much appreciated by the cricket correspondent of *The Times*. As every match needs four overs and no more to reach a decision and a marvellous finish, it will be possible to play a whole knock-out competition in a day, starting with 16 and more teams, and ending with the winner soon after tea. With a modicum of dispatch the complete Benson & Hedges and NatWest competitions could be got out of the way of the county championship in one day in mid-summer.

Philippus: Dear Master, at all costs we must keep quiet about your shrimp cricket. Otherwise the TCCB will introduce it next season, with pink Packer pyjamas for the teams.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

If for nothing else today's *Jeune fille* will be remarkable for recording the smallest thing ever to go wrong with a house in its owners' absence. Indeed, so confident am I of this claim that if any reader writes to me with a smaller, he will receive, by return of post, a magnanimous of the finest Toblerone.

I spent the Bank Holiday weekend in Edinburgh, where it turned out not to be a Bank Holiday at all: so that I came home feeling oddly deprived. It was not for some time that I discovered the yet odder depths to which deprivation may plummet.

It was four hours, to be precise, which is precisely what I can be. I know that my key turned in the lock at 3pm, because I heard the cuckoo clock in the kitchen observe this; just as I know that it was 7pm when I discovered what I discovered, because I was in the kitchen itself at the time, slicing the lemon for the yard-arm gin, and when the clock cuckooed, I looked up.

Owners of clocks of the order *cuculidae* will not need an explanation for this, but the rest of you might be thunderstruck to learn that that is what you do if you are in a room with one at any time after five o'clock. Up until five o'clock, the number of cries registers in the head, but after that time you have no idea how many it is, and you have to look up at the clock to see what hour it is.

I looked up just in time to see the little door shutting. And, in the nanosecond before it did, to note that what it was shutting on was not the cuckoo. I walked across to the clock, pried open the door with my forefinger, and peered into the cuckoo's premises. It was not there. It had flown its tiny coop. To make doubly sure, I forefingered the minute-hand around to eight o'clock: the door burst open, the voice cried eight times, but what leapt out on each tick of these eight occasions was not eight, but a wobbling spring. The cuckoo was not on the end of it.

Where had it gone? And why? Had it, perhaps, in ecstasy at

finding it had the house to itself, hurried so joyously from its cavity that it had detached itself from its tiny umbilicus? Or heard, maybe, the rumour of a sparrow-clock somewhere, and gone off to lay an egg in it?

Unlikely. It is, in truth, only half a cuckoo. It is a little more than a head on a spring. I cannot speak for more expensive clocks, it may well be that the Swiss houses of parliament sport a giant example which hourly lurches from its pent-house atop Big Bird intact in every particular, but mine, sadly, does not have the wherewithal to parturite. It does not even have legs. It could not have gone far. I searched the kitchen floor. Nothing.

Had a clockwork cat got in? I wondered if the head might have fallen off not forwards at all, but backwards. It could be lying on the floor of the works, struggling ventriloquially every time the spring sprang out. It dawned upon me that Wordsworth must have suffered similar horological shock; nothing else could explain so awful a line as "O Cuckoo! Shall I call thee bird, or but a wandering voice?" It is exactly what the old fool would have cried upon walking into Dove Cottage to find himself confronted with a headless chime.

I took the clock from the wall, and removed the back, appropriately enough, with my Swiss Army knife. Exactly, I'm sure, what the Swiss Army would have done in the circumstances. The head was not inside.

Three days have now passed, and some 50 phone calls. Can you believe that there is not a spare cuckoo head to be found anywhere in these islands? I tried this morning to fashion one from Plasticine, with a little matchstick beak, but it was too heavy, it lumbered out on the first cry, hung dangling over the clockface, and refused to go back until manhandled.

I do not know what to do. I may have to junk the clock. The kitchen is below my bedroom, I hear the cry in the small hours, and I would swear a derisory note has crept into it. They do change their tune, you know.

## Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan urges the West to explore every avenue of conciliation

# Give Middle East peace a chance

Jordan does not recognise the annexation of Kuwait. Iraq's actions violate the prohibition in the United Nations charter on the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state. Jordan considers it inadmissible to acquire territory by war, and believes that peace will not be restored to the region until Iraqi forces have withdrawn from Kuwait.

In the meantime, it is essential that the United Nations and the Arab League develop an initiative that will work. War and escalation cannot produce stability and peace anywhere in the Middle East. The interposition of the Arabs politically — and, if necessary, militarily — can give a peace initiative a chance.

Jordan has always complied readily with mandatory decisions of the Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the UN charter, and intends to do so in the present case. But Jordan, as its right, is consulting the Security Council about the special economic difficulties which confront us in carrying out these measures.

Moreover, Jordan is seeking clarification about the humanitarian exceptions to the trade embargo imposed by Resolution 661. Suspicions are heightened by the massive build-up of non-Arab and non-Muslim armies in the heartland of Arabia and Islam, for there are doubts about their ultimate purpose.

Jordan's economy has been heavily dependent on trade with Iraq, and recent events threaten to dry up the flow of remittances from the Gulf. Jordan cannot survive in the new situation without help from the international community. And the situation is urgent: solutions are needed immediately, not in a year's time.

The UN charter requires that international disputes shall be settled peacefully. King Hussein has been unremitting in his efforts to find a peaceful solution consistent with the principles of the charters of the United Nations and the Arab League. While he understands the international concern about recent events, he believes that primary responsibility for finding a peaceful

solution lies with the Arab states themselves. No good would be served by severing contact with Baghdad.

When peace is threatened, as it is now in our region, people in positions of responsibility must explore every avenue for solving problems and reducing tension. King Hussein is not blind to the wrongs that have been committed by and against Arabs, but he believes this is a time for conciliatory initiatives rather than speeches of condemnation or threats of force.

In view of the difficulty of enforcing mandatory United Nations sanctions in the case of Southern Rhodesia, it is understandable that the international community should wish to deploy naval and air forces in the region to ensure that decisions of the Security Council are fully implemented. However, these operations should be restricted to implementing mandatory United Nations decisions, and should be under the strict control of the Security Council or its Military Staff Committee.

Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf

states are entitled in law to seek the military assistance of friendly powers in preserving their sovereignty and in exercising the right of collective self-defence, but Jordan would have preferred to see this assistance coming only from Arab countries. The military build-up to the south of Iraq and Kuwait has added to regional tension. In such circumstances, mistakes and misunderstandings are possible, with disastrous consequences. Jordan will resist, with all the strength at its command, the entry into Jordan of non-Jordanian military forces from whatever direction.

The presence in the region of chemical and nuclear weapons adds to the dangers. Jordan would like the Middle East to be free of weapons of mass destruction, whether owned and controlled locally or by external powers.

Until a few weeks ago, it seemed that the world was entering an era of peace and co-operation, when human resources would be used for the benefit of the whole human family, rather than to kill, injure and destroy. The Middle East, like every region, needs a process to

ensure security and stability and to advance human rights: Arab and non-Arab states of the region must share in such an enterprise. The initiative for such an arrangement should come from within the region, but the solution of underlying problems will require the goodwill and co-operation of external powers.

Recent events have severely damaged the Palestinian cause, for the Palestinians have alienated many of those whose support is important if peace is to be achieved. Jordan considers that peace in the area urgently requires a solution of the Palestinian problem. Despite occasional criticism from Arab militants, Jordan has always advocated the same legal and political principles for these issues as we now favour for Kuwait.

The Middle East now needs peaceful initiatives rather than harsh words, a de-escalation rather than greater threats, conciliation rather than confrontation. We appeal to our friends to give peace a chance.

The author is brother of King Hussein of Jordan.

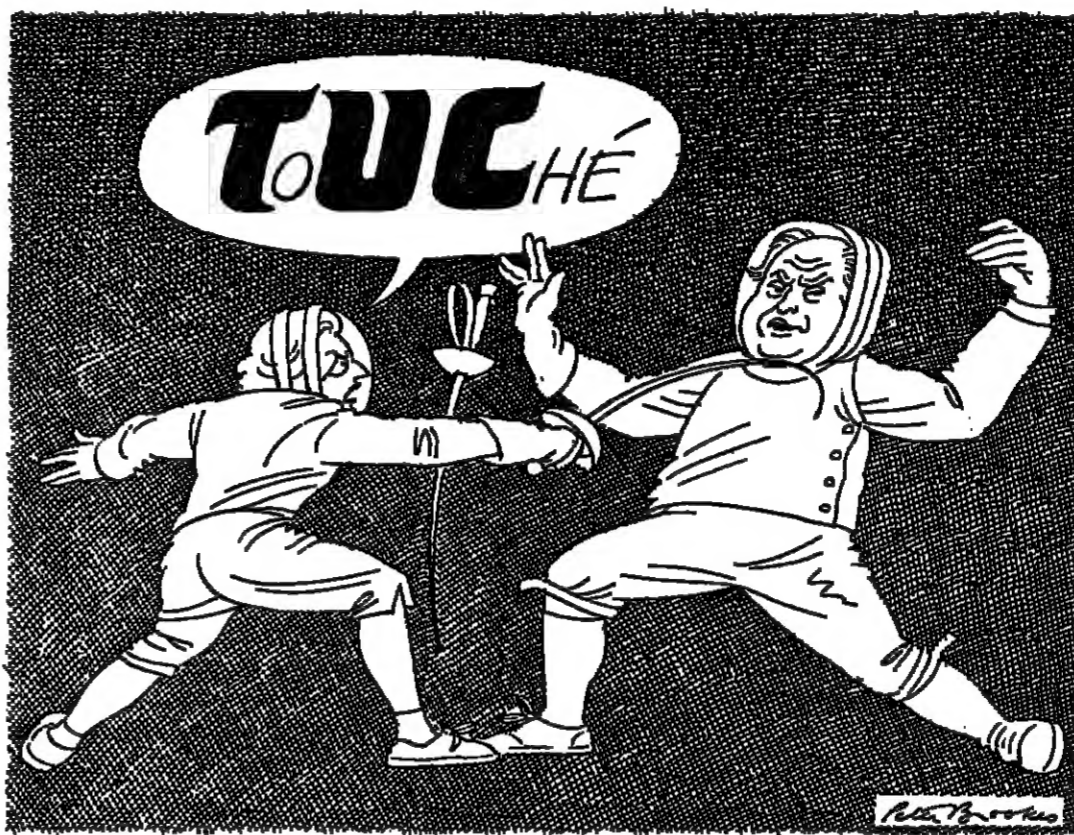
## State of the unions: even worse than they admit

The headlines commanded by the annual meeting of the Trades Union Congress next week may seem reassuringly familiar: splits over employment law under a future Labour government, and differences about the perennially vexed issue of union attitudes to pay in the economy. The combination of a large number of journalists and Arthur Scargill will probably mean that the murky finances of the National Union of Mineworkers will again be discussed. The Labour party's view of the Iraq confrontation is likely to be given authoritatively in a speech by Neil Kinnock.

None of this will address the real problems facing trade unions. The bad news for them is not that they were adversely affected by the changes of the early 1980s — unfriendly legislation, a recession and high unemployment will naturally tend to cut membership — but that when the employment climate improved in the mid-1980s, the unions' fortunes did not improve with it. As unemployment fell, union membership did not increase, but continued to fall. Now that unemployment is again rising, the possibility for increasing recruitment may well have passed.

The crucial indicator here is union density, the proportion of the workforce that is unionised. With membership of the unions meeting next week down by more than 4 million to 8.4 million, union density in Britain is down to about 38 per cent. While that is still higher than in our main EC partners, the unions are on very shaky ground. The distribution of membership is strikingly uneven. Union density is very high in coalmining (90 per cent) and post and telecommunications (82 per cent). But as a proportion of total employment, coalmining accounts for only 0.6 per cent, and post for 2.1 per cent. On the other hand, retail distribution, which accounts for 11.2 per cent of employment, has a union density of just 15 per cent.

Furthermore, by far the larger proportion of Britain's union members work in the public sector. Trade union density in the private sector — widely regarded as the sphere for any possible union growth — may now be as low as 27 per cent. In the United States,



Philip Bassett explains why the most significant issues are those not on the agenda for next week's TUC conference

private-sector union density of 12 per cent represents a much higher proportion of overall union numbers. Audrey Freeman, a labour economist at the Conference Board, a business research organisation based in New York, says that 61 per cent of American union members still work in the private sector.

American unions, too, with overall density of less than 17 per cent, are fighting hard for members, and the TUC has adopted many of their techniques: a publicity campaign, centrally coordinated recruitment drives in specific areas, and greater provision of non-bargaining services such as a union credit card. A delegation of officials from Britain's second-largest union, the GMB, will shortly go to America to look at recruitment techniques. But sophisticated though these

are, they are not necessarily cost effective. Take the TUC's first recruitment drive, earlier this year in the long-established industrial area of Trafford Park in Manchester. The published report on the campaign says it was "very valuable", but an unpublished TUC report says it produced a "limited return". It yielded an estimated 900 new members at a cost of £78,200. That is £86.88 per member gained, more than double the current annual average contribution from TUC members.

The cost of recruitment of new members is so high that many unions prefer growth through mergers, or competition between themselves, to growth in non-union areas. Some 20 TUC unions with a total of 4 million members are currently engaged in merger talks. Vicious inter-union competition helped force the elec-

tricians' union out of the TUC, and is now also threatening the once-mighty TGWU at Rover's Cowley works, while according to a survey by Kingston Business School, unions have attempted to recruit in only 14 per cent of high-technology companies in the south-east.

These days, even where there is recruitment, it rarely leads to unions being recognised by employers for collective bargaining. Four-fifths of the companies examined by Kingston Business School did not recognise unions at all. And derecognition of unions — kicking them out of companies where they have been established — is happening on a much greater scale than is acknowledged, because neither employers nor unions want to publicise it.

The Labour party says that if it gains power it will introduce

statutory recognition for unions when there is "substantial" support. Tony Blair, the party's employment spokesman, talks of a sliding scale of statutorily-enforced union representation, leading to full recognition at a membership level of 50 per cent plus one.

Without such legislation, there is not much reason for employers to recognise unions. Though economists argue about it, there is strong evidence in Britain that non-union companies have greater productivity and higher profitability than unionised firms. Government-backed research shows that almost 90 per cent of non-union employees believe there are good management-employee relations where they work, and almost two-thirds believe their pay is about right, or on the high side compared with that of others.

Indeed, much of the trend in the management of even unionised companies is away from the collective culture of unionism. Next week Bill Brett of the Institution of Professionals, Managers and Specialists will challenge the TUC to adjust to the growing practice of employers offering employees personal contracts: "If we don't do something about this, our membership will just drain away before our eyes."

The position for unionists is gloomy, but there are some exceptions, most notably the extraordinary dispute among North Sea oil workers. There are now scarcely any disputes about union recognition, but this one involves a large number of employees, many of them well-paid, on many different sites, whose employers have previously adopted formidable and sophisticated union-avoidance tactics.

Even so, one swallow over the North Sea does not make a summer for the unions in Blackpool. Leaving aside the image problem, with the fraud squad still investigating allegations of ballot-rigging in the TGWU and the NUM's money, the TUC faces fundamental problems. For all its rhetoric, the conference is unlikely to do much to solve them.

The author, BBC TV labour correspondent, will join *The Times* as industrial editor next month.

## Gold rush for Keenan

With his Dublin press conference behind him and the taste of captivity barely sliced from his mouth, Brian Keenan finds himself under siege from publishers anxious to rush out his account of the 52-month ordeal in Beirut.

Several offers of untold riches were made even as Keenan was in his hospital bed after undergoing tests. So far, he has fended off all approaches. His sisters, too, who campaigned unstintingly for his release, have spurned the literary types brandishing chequebooks.

Those who have made an approach include Steve McDonagh of Brandon Books, which has a radical reputation in Ireland (it publishes Sean Fein president Gerry Adams). "Brian will not rush his fancies," he says, "but we have been told that he is considering all his options and will let us know in due course." McDonagh is a close friend of the journalist Charles Glass, who refused to write a book after his escape from captivity in the Middle East. "Charles said he wasn't going to spend the rest of his life as a professional victim," says McDonagh. "Brian has a lot to think about and take into account."

Michael Sissons, literary agent to a number of leading politicians, believes that Keenan's account of his ordeal could make him a rich man. "Keenan is resourceful and funny," he says. "His story is endlessly fascinating, a story of the human spirit, very like *Robinson Crusoe*. A book would command a six-figure sum."

But, insists Sissons, to make a riveting read it would need to be more than an account of 17-hour games of dominoes in his Beirut cellar. "Far more than any prison experience, it would have to be a history of the mind."

## Hot plate of the day

As catering staff in the Commons prepare to strike, another row is cooking in the Westminster kitchens, as the patrician wing of the Tory party squares up to the beer-and-sandwiches wing of the Labour party over control of the catering department.

Tory MP Sir Charles Irving is planning to give up the chairmanship of the catering committee before his retirement from politics at the next election, and lobbying for his successor is already intense. There is a £2 million surplus in the catering account, and the various factions have very different views of how it should be spent. Veteran Tory MP Julian Amery is urging Irving's successor to use the surplus to restock the vintage wine cellar sold by Robert Maxwell when he was chairman of the Tory party committee. "MPs could enjoy wines at cheap rates from a remarkable cellar," he says.

Labour MP Dennis Skinner, who is coming under increasing pressure from Labour colleagues to stand, has no doubts. "We should pay the staff more money and serve food for the 2,000 visitors to the Commons every day, rather than just worrying about MPs who waste vineyard wines." But Skinner has ruled himself out of contention for the job. "I am the unofficial shop



## DIARY

steward of the staff; I could not become their boss."

Labour's Joe Ashton is less concerned about the party of the new incumbent, so long as he is a reliable driver. "We want real ale, and to go with it Yorkshire pudding and stew, all served in the same basin with mushy peas. It's a northern delicacy."

## Shot in the foot

Attacked by Norman Tebbit and friends as a bunch of pinkos, regarded by the left as part of an Establishment conspiracy, the BBC has now fallen foul of the Romanian government. It has been forced to apologise for a report on television news earlier this week in which viewers were told that demonstrations had been banned in the centre of Bucharest after rioters had set fire to buildings. Viewers were then treated to spectacular pictures of the flaming ruins of the former Communist party headquarters. Accurate enough — except that it was the headquarters of the Bulgarian Communist party in Sofia, rather than the Romanian party headquarters in Bucharest. Despite the apology, the Roma-

nians are loving every moment of being able to accuse a "prestigious organisation" of falling prey to "deliberate manipulation". The BBC report has even been shown on Romanian television (not renowned for its own impartiality) and compared unfavourably with Russian coverage of the same events.

## Duck soup

Heart transplant patients at Paymouth hospital in Cambridge have been temporarily deprived of the comforting quack of duck and splash of carp from the hospital pond. A century-long build-up of

You can never get a quack when you need one



silt has choked the supply of water, killing fish and robbing the 100 ducks of their daily bath. To make way for urgent remedial action costing £20,000 the fish have been removed and the ducks allowed an unusual late summer holiday on neighbouring farms. "The pond is vitally important to

our patients," says Virginia O'Brien, transplant patient adviser. "They measure their progress by walking around the pond. It's marvellous therapy."

President Mikhail Gorbachev yesterday dismissed the head of the state procurement commission, blaming him for the acute shortage of cigarettes that has caused demonstrations in Moscow. His name? Nikitin.

## Flag of convenience

After being dubbed the 19th province of Iraq, will Kuwait get a new flag? Although the red, white and black of Iraq is fluttering over Kuwait City, a new design may be on the cards, following suggestions from a Los Angeles design company. "Now that you've completed the hostile takeover of Kuwait, it's time to evaluate the new image you'd like to project," say designers Scott Mednick and Associates in a letter to Saddam Hussein. They say he should not only be commissioning a new flag but should also consider updating Iraqi travel brochures. "You will want to include the attractive ones," says the company. "As the designs on your neighbours change, the letter continues, 'so will your design needs. And we'll be with you as you cross border after border.'"

If this strikes you as distasteful, British marketing people are little better. The widely reported spoof organised by *Punch*, which invited British companies to bid for Saddam's PR account, had by yesterday been greeted with interest by at least four less than patriotic firms.

a chance

is: even admit



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## PAY THE PRICE

Mrs Thatcher's talent for raising her allies' blood pressure was well in evidence in Helsinki yesterday. Some European governments will be piqued by her contention that their financial and military support for America's defence effort in the Gulf has been slow and patchy. The Danes, for example, have dispatched only one corvette, but that constitutes half their ocean-going fleet — a proportion which compares wholly favourably with Britain's own naval contribution. Norway has been generous in its offer of merchant ships to transport American troops and weapons to the Gulf.

Her criticisms were correct, however, in the case of the principal (though unnamed) targets, West Germany and Japan. The central theme was valid, and her frankness justified. If Iraq succeeds in swallowing Kuwait, she said, no small country will be safe. The outcome of the confrontation in the Gulf will determine whether collective security can be made to work. When the interests of America's allies are vitally affected, they must not be seen to be "selfish and weak".

There is a real risk that President Bush's domestic support could be dangerously eroded if the American people, and the US Congress, begin to suspect the allies of taking a free ride in the Gulf. Next month, Congress resumes its difficult negotiations on cutting the US budget deficit, now expected to rise next year to more than \$250 billion. The world has the strongest possible interest in a deficit reduction package which does not induce a deep US depression.

The rises in oil prices, Japanese interest rates and military expenditures narrow the already tight margins for adjustment. Congressmen are already saying that they are unimpressed by political solidarity, unreinforced by concrete contributions of money, men and weapons. Military assistance has been provided by 21 Arab, Asian and Western countries but the scale is small. That may be less important, however, than the minimal financial support so far offered. Even without hostilities, the Pentagon estimates the cost of Operation Desert Shield at \$46 million a day. In proportion to their economies, the burdens on Turkey and Egypt (and Jordan, were it to implement sanctions) are still greater.

Before the crisis, Egypt was about to conclude negotiations with the International Monetary Fund to meet a financing gap of \$2

billion. Excluding its military support for the US and the cost of resettling hundreds of thousands of refugees, that gap has been more than doubled by the loss of remittances from workers in the Gulf and revenues from tourism and the Suez Canal. Turkey has lost hundreds of millions by closing Iraq's oil pipelines and banning all trade.

Washington is expected soon to present its friends with proposals for sharing America's military bill, and assisting other states facing the severe hardship that has come as a direct consequence of Iraq's aggression. The request, in billions, will bring the true cost of Iraq's action home to the rich world's chancelleries.

So far, they have promised only token contributions. Japan, which relies on the Middle East for 70 per cent of its oil, promised President Bush to make up financially for the inhibitions on military participation imposed by its constitution. The package announced this week has bitterly disappointed Washington. Japan will provide a billion dollars' worth of non-military supplies and marine transport for US forces, but not even a single minesweeper. As for the impoverished "front line" states, no sums have been mentioned. Worse, Tokyo has indicated that any aid will be in the form of low-cost loans or grants for projects. What these countries need is untied grants to meet severe cash-flow shortages.

Even that, however, compares favourably with West Germany. The Federal Republic has promised to consider amending its constitution to enable its forces to operate outside Nato. Meantime, it has sent some minesweepers to the Mediterranean and given America some tanks, but its financial contribution is almost invisible — some \$4 million to Jordan, and vague promises to Turkey, Egypt and Syria.

The costs of confronting Iraq may have to be borne for months, not weeks. If political solidarity is to hold, the industrialised world should join the oil-rich countries of the Gulf in forming a donor pool in which contributions of cash and kind could be coordinated. There should be no question of waiting for Washington to ask. Collective security does not come cheap, but the costs of failing this first serious test of the doctrine would be incalculable.

## TRUMPED UP TREASON

Benazir Bhutto was a courageous prime minister who lacked competence and the political skills necessary for survival in her country. Even by the low standards set by her predecessors, her government was corrupt. None the less, the prospect of her being charged with treason is outrageous. Should they proceed the military authorities, which already risk a backlash against her deposition from power, may find that they have overreached themselves.

No one should rush to defend the probity of the Bhutto administration. Lack of oversight on her part, to put it no more strongly, allowed wholesale plunder of the state exchequer, as fictitious companies set up by her supporters extracted state loans to set up equally fictitious factories. Her husband's family, the Zardaris, are believed in Pakistan to have been substantial beneficiaries of this spoils system.

The scale of the plunder was influenced not just by local tradition, but also precisely by the westernisation of her class, the landed aristocrats who dominate her party. Too many of them feel impelled to lead a jet-setting lifestyle which is wealthy not just by local, but international standards. In many cases their attachment to "western democratic values" begins and ends with a desire to shop regularly at Harrods.

Miss Bhutto's most critical mistake lay in her tactics against the rising ethnic violence in Sind. By using her executive powers to transfer responsibility for Karachi to the Mohajir Qaumi Movement, which represents the dominant community in the city, Miss Bhutto might have succeeded in lessening the tension. Instead, she allowed the federal and local governments of her Pakistan Peoples Party to be swayed again and again by chauvinists from her own Sindhi community. When she was

persuaded to call in the army to keep order in Sind, she sounded her government's death knell.

There is no doubt that the decision of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to remove Miss Bhutto was at the behest of the army. The generals became exasperated with her policy in Sind and her attempt to gain some authority over them. Some of them may also have convinced themselves that she was "unpatriotic" for seeking better relations with India and trying to curb their ambitions in Afghanistan and Soviet Central Asia.

Despite the army's hostility, however, Miss Bhutto has one great advantage over her enemies: she is one and they are many and divided. The caretaker prime minister, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi is weak. Prowling around him, visibly licking their chops, are several other candidates. There is no new government party: the new government is still only the opposition to Miss Bhutto and it must fear that, if elections are held, the feuding will either allow her return or produce anarchy.

There are rumours that the elections will be delayed until the new government is more united. The military might also simply step in and declare martial law. The alternative expedient, disqualifying Miss Bhutto from standing by bringing her to trial for treason, is ludicrous opportunism.

Any of these moves would conform with the worst tradition of Pakistani politics — that an enemy must be not only defeated, but destroyed. The arraignment of Miss Bhutto would set back by years any possibility of developing stable politics in the country. Pakistan's friends, in particular the United States, have a duty to make this clear to President Ghulam Ishaq and the generals.

## A GREAT HOPE

Yesterday Brian Keenan made a testimony to the resilience of the human spirit. He set a standard of strength and eloquence that should inspire the world. Speaking as a free man after four and a half years as a hostage in Lebanon, he avoided all bitterness and thought of revenge. Few could not take heart from his victory in the mental battles he had had to fight to protect the balance of his mind. He pledged himself to any task that might deliver those he left behind in chains. It was an intense discharge of human emotion by a man still carrying a weight of pain that had never rushed him.

It was a song of praise to friendship — to the friend he left behind in captivity, the British journalist John McCarthy. When he spoke of how they had helped each other through their ordeal and how Mr McCarthy now faces the extra pain of loneliness after their separation, his experience became universal.

The crucial component of their shared psychological survival pack seems to have been humour, good, rich and black, which will also be a comforting thought for the friends of Jerry Waite — for he too was a master of the vicious joke. Mr Waite, Mr Keenan felt, could have been held prisoner in the same unyielding. Here was yet another elusive report of a man of whom nothing has been heard finally since he disappeared.

That human endurance is equal to such conditions of captivity will be heartening tidings to all the families and friends of Mr Waite and the remaining hostages — and Mr Keenan is discovering on his first renewed acquaintance with the real world of freedom, light and air that his ordeal has given him friends by the thousand. He will have many more — and admirers too — after his eloquent

display of dignity and compassion yesterday. "Hostage is crucifying aloneness: there's a silent screaming slide into the bowels of ultimate despair. Hostage is a man hanging by his fingernails over the edge of chaos and feeling his fingers slowly straightening. Hostage is the humiliating stripping away of every sense and fibre of body and mind and spirit that make you what you are. Hostage is a mutant creature full of self-loathing, guilt and death-wishing, but he's a man, a rare, unique and beautiful creature of which these things are no part."

A hostage longs for his freedom, and the world longs with him. Mr Keenan's definition of a hostage was rung from the depths of gruelling experience. He has played his part in a modern war and his voice had the sadness and passion of war's poetry. Mental suffering is made worse by meaninglessness. Mr Keenan was held, he believed, because his captors thought he was British. His protests that he was Irish were ignored. Holding a man by mistake piles absurdity upon cruelty, cruelty upon absurdity. He was being held by a group of militant Islamic extremists whose purposes were never clear to him and whose leadership he never met. He cannot now untangle his experiences as part of some wider scheme — and probably never will have that last mental release.

His refusal to judge his captors was a personal triumph. The world cannot refuse to judge him, however. What the hostage-takers did to him was a callous and unmitigated evil. That the evil did not triumph over him is not to their credit, but to his. In Dublin yesterday from the midst of human degradation a great hope shone forth.

## Police notebooks under scrutiny

From Professor Nicholas J. Birch  
Sir, Your Science Editor's report (August 30) suggests that unscrupulous police officers intending to alter signed statements may now be inclined to use their notebooks more cautiously to avoid the impression of handwriting upon the subsequent unused sheets.

Duplicate books, where one or more carbon copies are obtained of a particular written order or receipt, are widely used in commerce and industry and commonly the regular users of these employ a hard board or metal plate to avoid the transfer of impression from one set of pages to the next. This is a simple technique and will be shortly in common use in the police forces of this country.

Could we not make a major improvement in police practice by employing modern pressure-sensitive papers in police notebooks so that an exact copy of a statement is made at the time of writing which can be given to the interviewee after it has been signed? It is, after all, obligatory for police to provide a duplicate copy of any taped interview and of any blood or urine samples taken for forensic use.

This technologically simple modification will make it difficult for either party to disagree with the written evidence or attempt to modify it for their own purposes. There would also be the capability to provide a back-up copy of all transactions in a police notebook so that it will no longer be credible for prosecution services to claim that notebooks critical for a defence case have mysteriously disappeared.

Public support for the police is not as strong as it might be and it is up to the police themselves to demonstrate their integrity. Voluntary provision of tamper-proof evidence is a major step toward restoration of public confidence.

Yours faithfully,  
N. J. BIRCH,  
Wolverhampton Polytechnic,  
Biomedical Research Laboratory,  
62-68 Lichtfield Street,  
Wolverhampton,  
August 30.

## Sales pitch

From Miss Ruth Clay  
Sir, It is not only the sacred turf of a Test match which is at risk from over-enthusiastic sponsorship. (Your third letter, August 34).

Last month, in Ely Cathedral, lost in admiration of the Decorated window tracery in the Lady Chapel, I became aware of a discordant note. Then I realised that from the plain glass panel in front of me (the original stained glass having fallen victim to iconoclasts long ago) there shone forth the name of my favourite supermarket. The lettering was discreet and elegant but striking enough to catch my eye. Investigation showed that every window in the chapel bore the name of a business benefactor, including I am glad to say, that of the bank looking after my current account.

I found myself torn between satisfaction at much-needed generosity and sadness that the debt had not been acknowledged in a less distracting way, preferably at a little distance from the scene of the charity. Why not a painting of the donors: two rows of company chairmen, kneeling?  
Yours faithfully,  
RUTH CLAY,  
77 Princes Road,  
Richmond, Surrey.

## Buxton Museum

From Mrs J. B. Heathcote  
Sir, The Buxton Museum contains a number of archaeological remains excavated in the 1890s by my grandfather, the late Micah Salt, from caves, barrows and other places in the Buxton district. They were presented to the museum by his sons when it was first opened in 1938 and these items and similar ones donated by others form a valuable archaeological record of the district.

It would be most unfortunate if the Buxton Museum were to be deprived of this unique local collection, or any other of its exhibits, and I welcome the news (letter, August 18) that legal action is about to prevent it.

Moreover, if museum assets in general were to be at the mercy of revenue-seeking councils, not only would there be a serious loss to our heritage but future museum donations, far more important than my grandfather's, would surely be discouraged.

Yours faithfully,  
JEANNE B. HEATHCOTE,  
Burwood, The Rise,  
Brockenhurst, Hampshire.

## Exploding fridge

From Brigadier B. C. M. Harding  
Sir, Your assertion (report, August 28) that the explosion which wrecked my kitchen causing £10,000 worth of damage, not to mention the emergency services calling out a bomb squad, was due to an "extra lively can of lager" is about as difficult to swallow as the ghastly stuff itself. I do not even have it in the house.

My own theory is that certain makes of refrigerator are programmed to self-destruct after say five years.

Yours etc.,  
BRIAN HARDING,  
Adresham House,  
South Moreton, Oxfordshire.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

## Why villagers desert their homes

From Mr Derek Smith

Sir, Contrary to Marion Shoard's article of August 25 ("How are we going to keep them down in the village?") the concern in villages at the enforced evacuation of towns of people with modest incomes, especially the young, has nothing whatever to do with rural votes. It has everything to do with maintaining socially balanced communities.

The main provider of funds for the schemes built for rent is the Housing Corporation — a quango. It is incorrect to imply that rural housing is receiving any special treatment when 20 per cent of the population live in rural areas and yet less than 2 per cent of corporation funding reaches village schemes.

Sites which obtain planning consent specifically and solely for local need affordable houses are invariably regulated by agreements under section 32 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971.

These agreements are tripartite between the vendor of the site, the local planning authority and a housing association (or whoever builds the houses); they require, *inter alia*, that the houses shall (a) be available only to local people (b) such people shall be on low or modest incomes and (c) the availability shall be perpetual.

Whilst it may not seem easy to define "a local person", the qualifications are normally by birth, schooling, employment or former employment or other similar close connections or roots. In practice, all applicants for houses have to be recommended by parish councils and then go through the rigours of a housing association's allocation policy.

Whether right or wrong, it has to be accepted that sales of council houses under the right-to-buy is unlikely to cease. But there is widespread and growing anger that local authorities are prohibited from spending any but a tiny fraction of the receipts to enable more housing to be provided. In this respect, the rural vote may well be affected.

The provision of rural housing schemes is just beginning to gather momentum: the task is formidable. Those concerned will not be daunted by Marion Shoard's extravaganzas.

Yours faithfully,  
DEREK SMITH,  
Sydney Farm,  
Halstock,  
Yeovil, Somerset,  
August 28.

From the President of the National Federation of Housing Associations  
Sir, Marion Shoard says, rightly, that "control of occupancy cannot easily be separated from ownership", and points out that we "seem to be discovering" that one of the consequences of right-to-

## Guinness lessons

From Detective Chief Inspector F. W. Cutts

Sir, With the conclusion of the Guinness trial one may be forgiven for enquiring just what are the duties of company directors vis-à-vis the company and shareholders.

Obviously they are the same yet, in law, that is not so. Directors' fiduciary duties are owed, under the traditional rules, to their companies and not to the shareholders, individually or collectively in the normal course of business (*Perival v Wright* 1902 2 Ch 421 Chancery Division).

There may be exceptions to this, e.g. when directors undertake to act as the shareholders' agents (*Alken v Hyatt* 1914 30 TLR 44 (Privy Council)), or where the directors' company is the target in a takeover bid (*Udon International Ltd v Land Grade* 1983 BCLC 244 Court of Appeal).

In summary, in certain situations directors may owe duties to the company's shareholders. This lead needs to be inspired by the Government, who must ignore the spurious excuse that the City will be put at a disadvantage internationally. True strength will

emerge, faith restored, prosperity likewise, and the need for lawyers pale into insignificance.  
Yours etc.,  
F. W. CUTTS,  
9 Sylvan Way,  
Chigwell, Essex,  
August 28.

## A-level results

From the Director of the Independent Schools Careers Organisation  
Sir, The recent A-level results (report, August 16) have once again highlighted the diminishing number of sixth-formers studying mathematics and physics.

Many have argued that nothing should be done to dilute the academic rigour of these examinations. No one can dispute this but it surely ought to be possible to devise syllabuses which will stretch the ablest while allowing the "average" A-level candidate to cope.

At present many youngsters who achieve a C or even a B at GCSE wish to take A levels in mathematics or physics, particularly the former, but are prevented from doing so by their difficulty. This is not so in many other subjects, hence the drift to arts and

## Preserving viaducts

From Mr D. M. Gwyther

Sir, May I invite your correspondent on "Preserving viaducts" (August 23) to visit our company here to see for himself why some, at least, of these magnificent edifices should be preserved. The aesthetic qualities of our own ex-Somerset and Dorset Railway viaduct are unquestionably most attractive, and certainly complement if not enhance the many acres of beautiful gardens which we have constructed around it. Evidence of its effectiveness can

be seen in the thousands of visitors for whom the viaduct represents a stimulating backdrop to the overall panorama of gardens. The viaduct originally cost us £5 many years ago but now requires a five-figure sum, for maintenance every year — a measure of how highly we value it.

Yours faithfully,  
D. M. GWYTHER  
(Managing Director),  
Showerings Ltd.,  
Kilver Street,  
Shepton Mallet, Somerset,  
August 23.

buy legislation is to deprive the so-called rural poor of adequate homes in the places where they want to stay or to set up home. It is not a new discovery. In June, 1980, I made my maiden speech in the House of Lords during the second reading of the Housing Bill. I was then Bishop of Newcastle, a diocese which includes the whole of Northumberland. I said that the rural housing authorities of the North-east were much more anxious than the urban authorities about the consequences of the extension of right-to-buy legislation, and suggested that such an unfettered right in villages might "seriously infringe the right of others to an adequate home". I proposed that where council housing formed only a small part of the total stock in a particular community, the right-to-buy should not apply.

One way of doing this is to give tenants who wish to buy a sum equivalent to the proposed discount to use for the purchase of a house or flat on the open market. This has not found favour, mainly because government policy has been to lessen the role of local authorities as providers of rented housing, and to switch the emphasis to housing associations.

Rural housing associations, including many with church sponsorship, are now struggling in turn to find a way round the problem. Otherwise, as Marion Shoard says, today's affordable rented housing becomes tomorrow's bargain buy (or inheritance) for another incomer, and careful planning controls are breached in the process. Furthermore, people of good will, who work hard and give generously to enable such low-rent housing development to take place, become disillusioned, and others see no point in starting.

There is another way. I understand that the Government is in principle prepared to make some funding available for shared equity arrangements, by which tenants may acquire a proportion of the value of the house but not the whole of it and the housing association retains the right to repurchase at valuation in the event of a sale. Such funding, however, will need to be considerable.

The House of Lords Select Committee on European Communities has recently suggested that as many as 400,000 families may need low-cost homes in rural areas during the next five years. Even if the figure were half that, the present resources of the Housing Corporation would be totally inadequate for such a task in addition to their urban responsibilities. Yours sincerely,  
RONALD SOUTHWARK  
(President, National Federation of Housing Associations),  
Bishop's House,  
38 Tooting Bec Gardens,  
Streatham, SW16,  
August 28.

As to his point of not firing on ships that refuse to stop, there is no way to impose economic sanctions without the use of force, because some countries have already allowed these ships to load and unload at their ports. Yours faithfully,  
MONA AL-GHANIM,  
22 Albany Road, W2,  
August 27.

From Mr Harry Holt  
Sir, Mr Bevan (August 28) who cites Balliol's rowing slang of the 1920s, may like to know that Magdalen College Boat Club was still coining, and regularly using, new versions of the genre in the early 1950s. We had a gentleman called Moon (Moggers) as captain; we raced under a concrete footbridge (the Chertons Bankers); and we were coached by a very successful Cambridge coach, Peter Haig-Thomas (Haggers Toggers, or Haggers for short).

In slightly over-ambitious mood, we christened the OUBC the Ogers Ugers Boggers Cluggers; but for some reason this never really caught on. Yours faithfully,  
HARRY HOLT,  
Victoria House,  
Shipton-under-Wychwood,  
Oxfordshire,  
August 24.

From Dr C. B. R. Pelling  
Sir, Oxford dons move with the times. Most of us are now helpless with pen or pencil: we cannot write a thing, unless seated at the keyboard of our wogger progger. Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER PELLING  
(Fellow and Praefector in Classics),  
University College, Oxford.

From Mr Raymond Goodchild  
Sir, As early as 1904, when my father entered Balliol, Holy Communion was commonly referred to as Hagger Communion. Yours faithfully,  
R. C. R. GOODCHILD,  
The Old Vicarage,  
Pitminster,  
Taunton, Somerset.

From Mr Ted Walker  
Sir, Not just Oxford. At Cambridge in the 1950s, a mixed grill at the Plover in Fen Ditton was a migger-grigger at the Plover in Harry Ditters. An interesting variant of the -ger ending has been noted by my brother who teaches at Windlesham House School. There, a wastepaper basket is referred to, by an Oxbridge member of staff, not as a wagger pagger bagger but as a wapper. Yours faithfully,  
TED WALKER,  
Argyll House,  
The Square, Eastergate,  
Chichester, Sussex.

From Mr Nicholas Winch  
Sir, It is a well-known fact that members of the "establishment" communicate with each other through your letters column, but do they now have to do it in their own language? I have the honour to be, Sir, both an Old Wykehamist and your obedient servant. Yours etc.,  
NICHOLAS WINCH,  
298 Gisburn Road, Blacko,  
Nelson, Lancashire.

## Law and force in the Gulf

From Professor P. J. Rowe

Sir, Eric Alley (August 29) fails to present an entire picture of international law in its application to the Gulf hostages. He says that of all those directly involved in the Gulf crisis, Iraq is the only non-signatory state to the 1977 additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions. Neither the UK nor the US has ratified it (although Kuwait has), having previously signed it.

In respect to the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 do apply as all relevant states are parties to them.

Mr Alley suggests that the protection afforded to civilians is given only by the Protocol. He need only look at the fourth Geneva Convention 1949, which is designed for their protection. Specific provisions ban the taking of hostages (article 34), the use of persons protected by the Convention to render certain points or areas immune from military operations (article 28; letter, August 27), their treatment (article 27), their right to leave (article 48) and the prohibition on forcible transfers out of occupied territory (article 49).

Yours faithfully,  
P. J. ROWE,  
The University of Liverpool,  
Faculty of Law,  
PO Box 147,  
Liverpool, Merseyside,  
August 29.

From Miss Mona Al-Ghanim  
Sir, I read Mr Plowden's letter (August 27) with some concern. He wrote: "Assuming no further aggression by Iraq there should be no attempt to liberate Kuwait by military attack".

As a Kuwaiti, I would like to point out to Mr Plowden that at this moment, Iraqi troops are committing acts of aggression in my country. They are rounding up civilians, Kuwaiti and foreign nationals, threatening embassies, looting, raping and carrying out executions with total disregard for human rights or international law. These crimes are continuing in a country which has been invaded and occupied by a more powerful, greedy neighbour. Kuwait is a sovereign, independent state and a member of the United Nations.

As to his point of not firing on ships that refuse to stop, there is no way to impose economic sanctions without the use of force, because some countries have already allowed these ships to load and unload at their ports.

Yours faithfully,  
MONA AL-GHANIM,  
22 Albany Road, W2,  
August 27.

## Oxford slang

From Mr Harry Holt  
Sir, Mr Bevan (August 28) who cites Balliol's rowing slang of the 1920s, may like to know that Magdalen College Boat Club was still coining, and regularly using, new versions of the genre in the early 1950s. We had a gentleman called Moon (Moggers) as captain; we raced under a concrete footbridge (the Chertons Bankers); and we were coached by a very successful Cambridge coach, Peter Haig-Thomas (Haggers Toggers, or Haggers for short).

In slightly over-ambitious mood, we christened the OUBC the Ogers Ugers Boggers Cluggers; but for some reason this never really caught on. Yours faithfully,  
HARRY HOLT,  
Victoria House,  
Shipton-under-Wychwood,  
Oxfordshire,  
August 24.

From Dr C. B. R. Pelling  
Sir, Oxford dons move with the times. Most of us are now helpless with pen or pencil: we cannot write a thing, unless seated at the keyboard of our wogger progger. Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER PELLING  
(Fellow and Praefector in Classics),  
University College, Oxford.

From Mr Raymond Goodchild  
Sir, As early as 1904, when my father entered Balliol, Holy Communion was commonly referred to as Hagger Communion. Yours faithfully,  
R. C. R. GOODCHILD,  
The Old Vicarage,  
Pitminster,  
Taunton, Somerset.

From Mr Ted Walker  
Sir, Not just Oxford. At Cambridge in the 1950s, a mixed grill at the Plover in Fen Ditton was a migger-grigger at the Plover in Harry Ditters. An interesting variant of the -ger ending has been noted by my brother who teaches at Windlesham House School. There, a wastepaper basket is referred to, by an Oxbridge member of staff, not as a wagger pagger bagger but as a wapper. Yours faithfully,  
TED WALKER,  
Argyll House,  
The Square, Eastergate,  
Chichester, Sussex.

From Mr Nicholas Winch  
Sir, It is a well-known fact that members of the "establishment" communicate with each other through your letters column, but do they now have to do it in their own language? I have the honour to be, Sir, both an Old Wykehamist and your obedient servant. Yours etc.,  
NICHOLAS WINCH,  
298 Gisburn Road, Blacko,  
Nelson, Lancashire.

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# The loudest whisper in Washington

John Sununu arrives in London today preceded by a reputation for ruffled dress and formidable intelligence. Peter Stothard examines the remarkable US chief of staff

Only two years ago John Sununu was so little known that American newspaper readers had to be told the pronunciation of his name. "Sun-new-nu", *The New York Times* explained, in the style more normally used for obscure Iranian towns hit by earthquakes.

Today, when Mrs Thatcher meets the president's chief of staff, she will be meeting one of the best known and most powerful men in Washington. Wherever members of the administration gather, the sound of Sununu's name is the insistent, sibilant whisper in the air. Earlier this month Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall declared President Bush to be "dead". John Sununu, he said, was "calling his shots".

The chief of staff is the presidential gatekeeper. The power of the office — at its most notorious during H.R. "Bob" Haldeman's tenure during the Watergate years — is to control who sees the president and when.

But Mr Sununu has elevated gatekeeping to a high art. He is the odd-man-out in any White House group, round while others are the low-calorie look, crumpled amid others' sleekness. Among the preppy aristocrats of the Bush entourage, his mixed Lebanese, Greek and El Salvadorian ancestry has dubbed him "the one-man melting pot".

To his critics he is like the malevolent enunciated at an oriental court. He certainly has the same legendary intelligence. Shortly after his appointment, a magazine published a feature showing "what Sununu knows and you probably don't", including questions from a special "Mega IQ test" in which he was one of only eight people ever to have scored 43 out of 48 right answers. He has given his name to one of the most feared verbs in today's White House: "to Sununu" — to destroy an adversary intellectually and emotionally in a single short meeting.

For President Bush, however, he is an invaluable prop whose loyalty can be guaranteed absolutely. As governor of New Hampshire, one of the early-voting primary states in the presidential selection process, he played a key role in the Bush victory. Afterwards, he let it be known that he wanted a position of "significant" power in Washington. He had been passed over for vice-president. He would not accept a mere cabinet post.

On November 14, 1988, one week after the election victory, President-elect Bush invited him to dinner at his holiday house in Gulf Stream, Florida. As they returned to Andrews Air Force Base together on Air Force One the following day, television viewers got their first glimpse of the contrast between them, now so familiar, but then new and striking. The president emerged in his perfectly pressed suit with a white pocket handkerchief. Mr Sununu followed in a jacket so creased it seemed he must have fought off five rivals hand-to-hand and slept the night with their dead bodies.

Since that day, it has been rare to see the president on any serious occasion without his ruffled chief of staff. It is a sight with inescapable appeal for conspiracy theorists, the tall, patrician Bush with the stout, thuggish-looking, slightly asiatic figure forever whispering in his ear.

What is he whispering? Mr Sununu's words never seem to be good for environmentalists, interventionists, abortionists, journalists — or for any other lobby group which wants to divert the president from his conservative cause. The governor characterises himself as a "pussy cat" whose powers have been exaggerated. But this is not the impression of officials of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) who have tried to press their case at the White House.

Current research on global warming may be good enough for Mrs Thatcher but it is soft-headed for the former engineer and "Shia fanatic" for nuclear power who guards the president's door. William Reilly, boss of the EPA, was an early rival to be Sununued.

As one victim put it, "if you dare to take a different position from the governor, he looks you straight in the eye and fights. But if he thinks that you simply haven't done your preparation properly, his head seems to slide forward at you like a landslide on a mountain face. You feel as though it will crush you without so much as a blink."

White House officials have become adept at comparing the styles of the two men who stand at the top of the White House hierarchy. Secretary of State James Baker is no pussy cat to work for, either — with a harsh tongue for those who cross him. "But, when he wants to revenge himself on someone outside," one observer says, "he does it with stealth and a silken cord. He is the



The voice in Bush's ear: "If you dare to take a different position, he looks you straight in the eye and fights"

subtle grand vizier. You can never see his fingerprints. With Sununu, on the other hand, you can always tell where he's been. There are not only fingerprints but muddy footmarks and broken windows."

In Lebanon a "sununu" is not a verbal assault but a small sparrow-like bird. The chief of staff's paternal grandparents were among thousands of Lebanese who went to the United States at the turn of the century. The family was based in Beirut, where Mr Sununu says his "closest" relatives were, and also in the Greek quarter of Jerusalem.

His maternal grandmother was Greek and his mother was born in El Salvador. His father was born in Boston and he himself was born in Havana, Cuba, in July 1939, while his father, a distributor of French films, was on a business trip. He calls himself "the universal ethnic. It's a varied heritage and I'm proud of it."

During the 1988 election, the clashes between Governor Sununu of New Hampshire and Governor Dukakis of neighbouring Massachusetts were one of the more bloodstained subplots of the campaign. "Only the Irish fight the Irish with more venom than Greek fights Greek," a campaign aide said. "John went into the fight with Dukakis with a real passion. It was as though a Democratic victory would be a defeat for something deep inside his soul."

**'If he thinks you haven't done your preparation, his head seems to slide forward at you like a landslide. You feel as though it will crush you without so much as a blink'**

"Dukakis used plenty of Athenian abuse in his speeches; he liked to compare the corruption of the Reagan White House to a fish rotting from the head first". But Sununu used the Greek cunning. He knew where the bodies were buried in Massachusetts and he made sure that, one by one, they all came out."

With two days to go till the end of the New Hampshire primary, the White House speechwriter, Peggy Noonan, looked to the back of the campaign bus and saw a serene middle-aged lady. It was Nancy Sununu, the governor's wife.

"Will George Bush win?" Ms Noonan asked.

"Sure, he'll win just fine," Mrs Sununu said.

"By how much?" Ms Noonan went on.

The rest of the bus passengers turned around with interest.

"By five to ten points."

Mrs Sununu was more accurate than any of the highly paid aides and pollsters. Ms Noonan wrote admiringly afterwards. She is not the only Washington admirer of Mrs Sununu, who has protected her husband and family from unusually hostile pressures.

In New Hampshire she made sure that they stayed in their Salem home rather than take over the governor's mansion. She is frank about the difficulties of educating eight children on a salary of just over \$90,000 (£43,000) a year.

Many in Washington still find the chief of staff a mystery. Is he the principled voice of the right, or is he part of the president's game of light and mirrors, presenting the illusion to the right that they have a champion at court while, all the time, he is doing nothing but keeping the good ship George Bush on course?

On the day after the president made his now-famous about-turn

on tax increases, Mr Sununu was with reporters on an official trip with Barbara Bush. When asked about new taxes, and the reversal of the campaign pledge with which he had helped to elect his master, Mr Sununu snapped that this was "a trivial issue" of concern "only to small minds".

Some of those small minds belonged to the biggest men on Capitol Hill and the president's official spokesman had quickly to disavow the chief of staff. Washington waited for Mr Sununu to get some taste of his own medicine. But, apparently, this never happened, leaving the suspicion that the governor was simply attempting to reassure the right that at least someone in the White House was against tax increases.

Mr Sununu's trip to Moscow stemmed from the Washington summit agreement that he teach the Kremlin how to manage relations between a president and legislature. He discussed "paperwork", speech writing, cabinet briefing and anything else which Mr Gorbachev's men wanted to learn from him. The mission has aroused some wry smiles. Perhaps, it is said, the administration could teach Moscow how to run a budget surplus, or a thrifty military machine?

Many in the White House think Mr Sununu's style already too close to that of a KGB colonel. But while they joke, they joke quietly.

## Oscar for effort

What has fashion designer Oscar de la Renta to do with Dominican orphans?

NOT many fashion designers can claim the distinction of having been invited by the president of their country to be its ambassador. But when Oscar de la Renta was asked by the Dominican Republic to be its man in Washington, he said no. "I told them I could not afford to. I need to run my business to be able to help my country the way I can," he says.

He is recognised across the United States as the handsome Latin American who whips up sexy, ladylike clothes in his Seventh Avenue studios. His name sells \$500 million of clothes, accessories and fragrances around the world, yet in the Dominican Republic Mr de la Renta, *caballero* of the Order of Juan Pablo Duarte and *gran comandante* of the Order of Cristobal Colon, is not known as a fashion celebrity and socialite but as the founder of the *casa de niños* in Santo Domingo, an orphanage where he feeds 350 children and encourages them to work instead of begging.

The orphanage, opened in 1981, also provides medical care. One sick baby, whisked off to intensive care in New York by Mr de la Renta, is today his healthy six-year-old adopted son, Moises, fluent in Spanish and English. "I will give Moises every opportunity. My only demand is that he be an honourable man," he says.

The designer was in London this week on a 36-hour visit wedged in between a holiday in Tuscany with his second wife (the married Annette Engelhard Reed last December), and a working trip



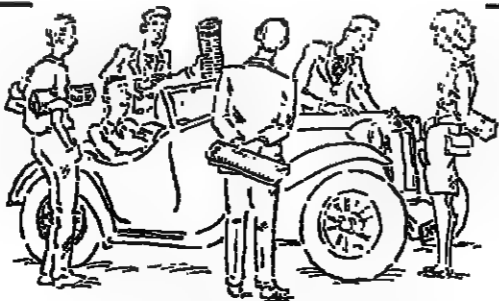
Diplomat Oscar de la Renta

to India, where most of the elaborate embroideries on his skinny evening T-shirts, sweaters and dresses are sewn.

His London visit was prompted by his love for children. He has designed a range of heraldic silk scarves in a salute to the new political freedom in east Europe (a contribution from the sale of each scarf goes to charities helping children in Romania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, East Germany and the Soviet Union), and he was at Selfridges in Oxford Street to help with their launch and display his ambassadorial skills.

LIZ SMITH  
Oscar de la Renta's Salute to Freedom scarves, silk squares, £38, Selfridges, W1.

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SELL IT THROUGH THE TIMES

## Sport at the height of danger?

A mid-air hang-gliding crash has focused attention on crowded skies

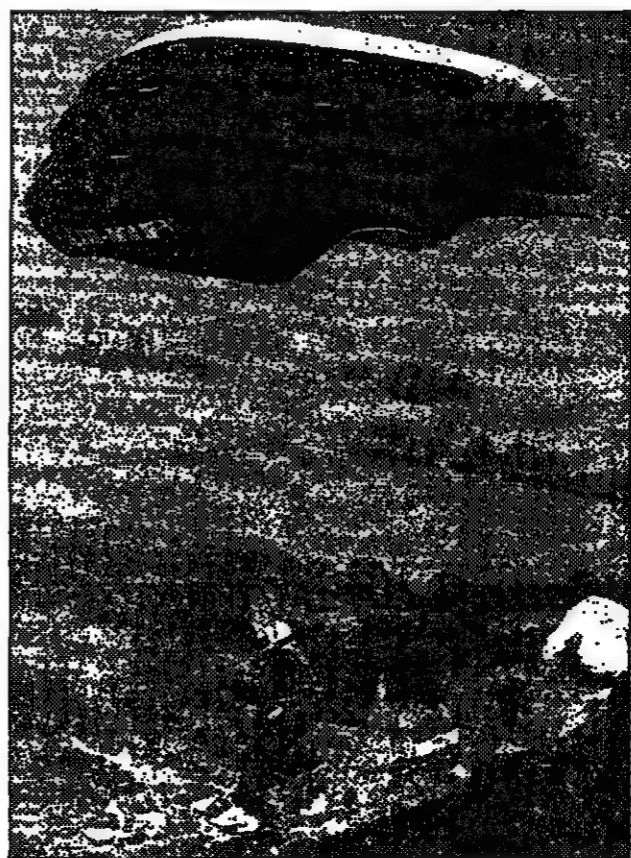
THE pilot of a hang-glider is in intensive care in a Cardiff hospital after a mid-air collision with a paraglider on a Welsh hillside on Sunday. Helen Davies is the victim of a clash of wings between two fast-growing activities, which appear hazardous to on-lookers but are claimed (by supporters) to be less dangerous than many other sports.

The collision at Penreth Hill, near Merthyr Tydfil, happened at a rally organised by the British Hang-Gliding Association (BHGA) and the British Paragliding Association (BPA). Witnesses say conditions for flying were poor on Sunday, with a light wind too weak to lift gliders into flight. A large number of flyers waited in frustration while their bank holiday slipped away.

Later on conditions improved, and there was a scramble to get into the air. The airspace along the top of the hill, where the rising currents were to be found, became so crowded that some pilots broke away and headed towards the valley below. Details of the collision are still being assembled by the air accident investigations branch of the transport department.

Hang-gliding gained a daredevil reputation in the early Eighties. Untrained flyers would hurl themselves into the void, dangling from makeshift kites. Since then, under pressure from the Civil Aviation Authority, the sport has become properly organised.

Bob Harrison, training of-



Flying start: paraglider gets a bird's eye view of countryside

ficer for the BHGA, says: "Today's gliders are highly stable in the air, and can stand stress ratings which would break up a jumbo jet. The association has set up a system of training and certification which is voluntary, but pilots are under strong incentives to join in. Of course we are unhappy when an accident happens, but we are no longer unhappy about our accident record as a whole."

Free-flight paragliding grew out of parachuting, with the development of mattress-like rectangular canopies which could be steered relatively

freely. Compared with hang-gliders, with their rigid wings held stiff by stays and battens, paragliders are slow-moving and less suitable for sustained flight. But they are highly manoeuvrable and straightforward to operate, and can be taken anywhere that one can carry a 22lb backpack.

"With canopies designed for parachuting," says Tom Beardsley, safety and development officer for the BPA, "people found they could launch them off a hillside in good conditions, and fly on the currents flowing up the slope. In theory, anyone can

buy a glider without any training, but one of my jobs is to nip that in the bud. It is an individualist sport like mountaineering, but we are satisfied it is under adequate control."

In the past three years, membership of the BPA has risen from about 700 to nearly 2,500. Members are required to report serious accidents, or equipment failures on pain of expulsion. From almost 80,000 BPA flights last year, about 80 incidents were reported involving 27 cases of serious injury and one fatality, the first in ten years. This year has already seen the deaths of two BPA flyers, one in Britain and another in France.

HANG-GLIDING is a more widespread sport than paragliding. The BHGA has 6,000 active members, and the number of serious accidents is correspondingly larger. Last year there were two deaths, but in 1987 there were five. The Penreth accident points to one growing danger. The number of accessible gliding spots in Britain is limited. As the two sports grow, the problem of congestion is likely to increase, with fast-moving hang-gliders and slow-moving paragliders in the same airspace.

For conventional flyers, used to radio contact with fellow pilots and firm instructions from the control tower, the free-for-all along a windy escarpment on a busy day might look like chaos. But the BHGA is doubtful whether radio control would be helpful. "There isn't a leader in charge of the hillside," Mr Harrison says. "Conditions can change so quickly that pilots have to rely on their judgment. Safety depends on pilot's airmanship, and that is what we try to teach."

GEORGE HILL

# No smoke without passive victims?

Many non-smokers who share offices with nicotine addicts will sympathise with the plight of the asthmatic civil servant, Joan Clay, who is now pursuing a claim for a disability pension after the Social Security Commissioner ruled that she was rendered incapable of work as a result of her colleagues' smoking habits.

But is it only asthmatics whose health is so threatened by other people's tobacco smoke?

The links between passive smoking and lung cancer in adults and respiratory illness in children are stronger than those relating to asthma, according to Nick Wald, a professor of environmental and preventive medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School, London.

"The evidence that passive smoking causes asthma is inconclusive," he says, "but there is certainly evidence that it makes the condition worse in those who already suffer from it. In a sense, asthmatics can act as their own barometer. If they notice their condition becomes worse when they are exposed to tobacco smoke and improves in clean air, then the

**Asthmatics are not the only ones at risk from smokers.**

**Ann Kent reports**

relationship is obvious.

"Unfortunately, the situation is much less clear-cut when we look at the risks of lung cancer resulting from passive smoking exposure; we don't know the magnitude of the risk."

Passive smoking — the involuntary inhalation of someone else's smoke — has been the subject of intense research worldwide for at least 20 years. But the earlier studies tended to yield conflicting results — some gave evidence of harm and some did not. According to Professor Wald, a much more consistent pattern has emerged from research carried out in the 1980s. This has led expert scientific committees in Britain, Australia and the United States to produce reports concluding that passive smoking does pose a health hazard.

The findings of the British report, produced two years ago,

have been accepted by the health department. The report estimated that several hundred of the current annual total of about 40,000 lung cancer deaths in the United Kingdom could be attributed to passive smoking. When the authors were asked about this figure after publication, they estimated that possibly 300 lives were lost in this way. Estimates from Canada and the United States have set much higher death rates. But while many scientists are convinced of the link between passive smoking and lung cancer, no one knows how many lives are lost.

The harmful effects of passive smoking are said to be caused by the sidestream smoke released from the burning tip of a cigarette into the atmosphere. This smoke contains thousands of chemicals, released into the air as particles and gases, including 60 which are known or suspected to be carcinogenic. Although sidestream smoke is diluted by the surrounding air, it is concentrated enough to be absorbed through the lungs of the non-smoker, as has been shown by laboratory tests on the urine of non-smokers. These have revealed that those exposed to other people's smoke have higher levels of



Getting up our noses: non-smokers may not like inhaling cigarette smoke, but is it dangerous?

cotinine — a breakdown product of nicotine.

Research by Professor Wald and his colleagues has shown that cotinine levels in those who are married to smokers are about three times higher than in those who are not. But much of this exposure to nicotine products occurs outside the home.

Professor Wald divides the diseases linked with passive smoking into three groups. The first, in which he says the evidence of harm is "compelling", includes lung cancer and serious respiratory illness in babies. The second, in which the evidence strongly suggests a link with passive smoking, includes chronic middle ear disease in

children and exacerbation of asthma. He puts heart disease and low birthweight in babies born to passively smoking mothers in a third group, where evidence suggests a link, but no firm conclusions can be drawn.

Employers are unlikely to lose any sleep over Miss Clay's victory, as the disability pension she is

seeking will come from the public purse. In the short term, it is likely to be asthmatics who are most concerned by the case. One adult in 20 and one child in ten suffers the condition (many children grow out of asthma).

Dr Donald Lane, an Oxford chest physician and the director of the National Asthma Campaign, says: "Not all asthmatics are affected by smoke, but many are. In their case brief exposure to smoke can trigger a tightness of the chest and breathing difficulties, although the asthmatic episode may be short-lived. However, if they are exposed for longer periods, they could suffer a prolonged asthma attack."

Dr Lane adds: "We believe asthmatics should immediately inform their employers if the smoky atmosphere is making their condition worse."

Dr Martin Jarvis, a researcher with the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, is particularly concerned with the effects of passive smoking on children. "No one is going to pass laws about what happens in the home, which is probably the most important source of exposure for non-smokers," he says. "The evidence that passive smoking is harmful for babies and children is cast iron. We have measured the cotinine in their urine, and we are able to sort out the passive smokers from children who have already started to smoke."

"We know that passive smoking children are more likely to get a variety of respiratory illnesses such as bronchitis, other chest infections and middle ear disease. It is very important for parents to be made aware of these risks."

## Playing out a fantasy for the common man

A DOZEN years ago, I found myself standing on the stage of a vast New York hotel ballroom, receiving the Edgar Allan Poe prize for the best non-fiction crime book of 1978. This is madness, I thought. I had simply co-authored a book on the legal and cultural conflicts in a murder trial. What on earth am I doing here?

When the prize was handed to me and I was asked what had first drawn me to the crime genre, my answer was only half untrue. "Reading, when I was a child, about what the vicar did to choirboys in the *News of the World*," I answered. Well, moral turpitude always did fascinate me. What have never intrigued me are the technical underpinnings of crime and its solution. Most genre writing, indeed, leaves me cold. Science fiction, detective books, romances and spy stories never get tucked into my suitcase, even for the most mindless of summer holidays. In this sense, I go against the grain. One out of every six books sold now, I am reliably told, is genre fiction.

The really important market in genre fiction is no longer the Mills & Boon romance of the simple secretary with heartbreakingly beautiful hair and complexion masked by

modesty and a dreadful salary. "Speculative fiction" is the up-and-coming market, and this includes fantasy fiction, which takes under its rubric a mixture of science fiction, horror and those worlds that J.R.R. Tolkien

first drew to the attention of serious readers. This week, one of the most significant contemporary writers of fantasy fiction, Guy Gavriel Kay, arrived in London to promote his new fantasy book, *Tigana*, and since he was also the man retained by the estate of J.R.R. Tolkien in 1974 to assist Christopher Tolkien in the posthumously published *The Silmarillion*, I thought perhaps Mr Kay could explain the increasing popularity of fantasy fiction.

Fantasy literature, done on the very high level at which Mr Kay works, is complex, tightly plotted and immaculate in its details. His book creates a world that comes with maps, rules and customs, not to mention names such as Dianora, Brandin, Vencel. The levels on which the best and most important fantasy writing operates can be very serious indeed: the Gulliver tradition was a political satire on contemporary British institutions, and there are some fantasy books that do use the genre to comment on their own society — but they are, I feel, very much a minority.

I cannot help wanting to dismiss all readers of fantasy fiction as sub-literate. My ill-tempered reaction resembles the way I feel about those people who spend hours doing crossword puzzles that seem so futile, revealing so very little about the human condition. One cannot dismiss puzzle addicts or fantasy readers that way, of course, although they very often do contain a large number of stupid people. But why on earth do they spend so much time worrying about words that contain obscure prefixes, or plough through accounts of

**BARBARA AMIEL**



the republic of Ygrath which, as far as I can see, tell them absolutely nothing about the mystery of human existence?

The most obvious answer is that fantasy literature is escapism. Many people simply do not want to tackle a world in which problems such as the tedious state of British Rail or events in Kuwait are once again in front of them. I think, too, this is another manifestation of what I call functional illiteracy. We can read but not think. This is a spin-off of a society in which classical education has all but disappeared, and readers are no longer familiar with the major literary models. But perhaps the most important reason is that our exposure to popular

entertainment has created the thrill-and-spill-a-minute need. This thrill-a-minute need does not just relate to action, but also to far-fetchedness. Realistic books by their very nature give us little of this because life itself is a slow and tedious

business, rather like what pilots say about flying: hours of total boredom interspersed with moments of sheer terror. A great novel will convey that sense, but a genre book can be packed not simply with "action" but with events that are totally weird. Our tastes have become so jaded in the Oscar Wilde sense of knowing the price of everything and the value of nothing. We are hilariously sophisticated on the surface and have very little depth.

The best fantasy writers, like Mr Kay, use the genre to cheat a little. They do, in fact, deal with great mythical archetypes and tell us about the response of human nature to such themes as conquest, both sexual and territorial. My own view is that they use the genre simply to package a more profound view of life in a highly saleable product. Mr Kay sees fantasy literature as freeing him and his readers from all the preconceptions they may have about political matters. I suppose he is correct in one sense: if you describe real-life adventures you run the risk of infusing your work with views of, for example Germans, Russians, men, women or social institutions which may alienate some readers. Create Quileia, and you can devise all its rules, unswayed by views that the reader may have.

In the end, the value of genre literature depends on the ability of the writer. P.D. James is a far cry from a run-of-the-mill detective genre novelist. Brian Moore does not write "romances". And the work of Guy Gavriel Kay may well join that of the very best writers, if only he will move out of Ygrath and back to Charing Cross.



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# DEDRA. THE NEW LANCIA

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## GALLERIES

## East, West, exchange is best

John Russell Taylor  
looks at the influence  
of the Orient on  
European ideas

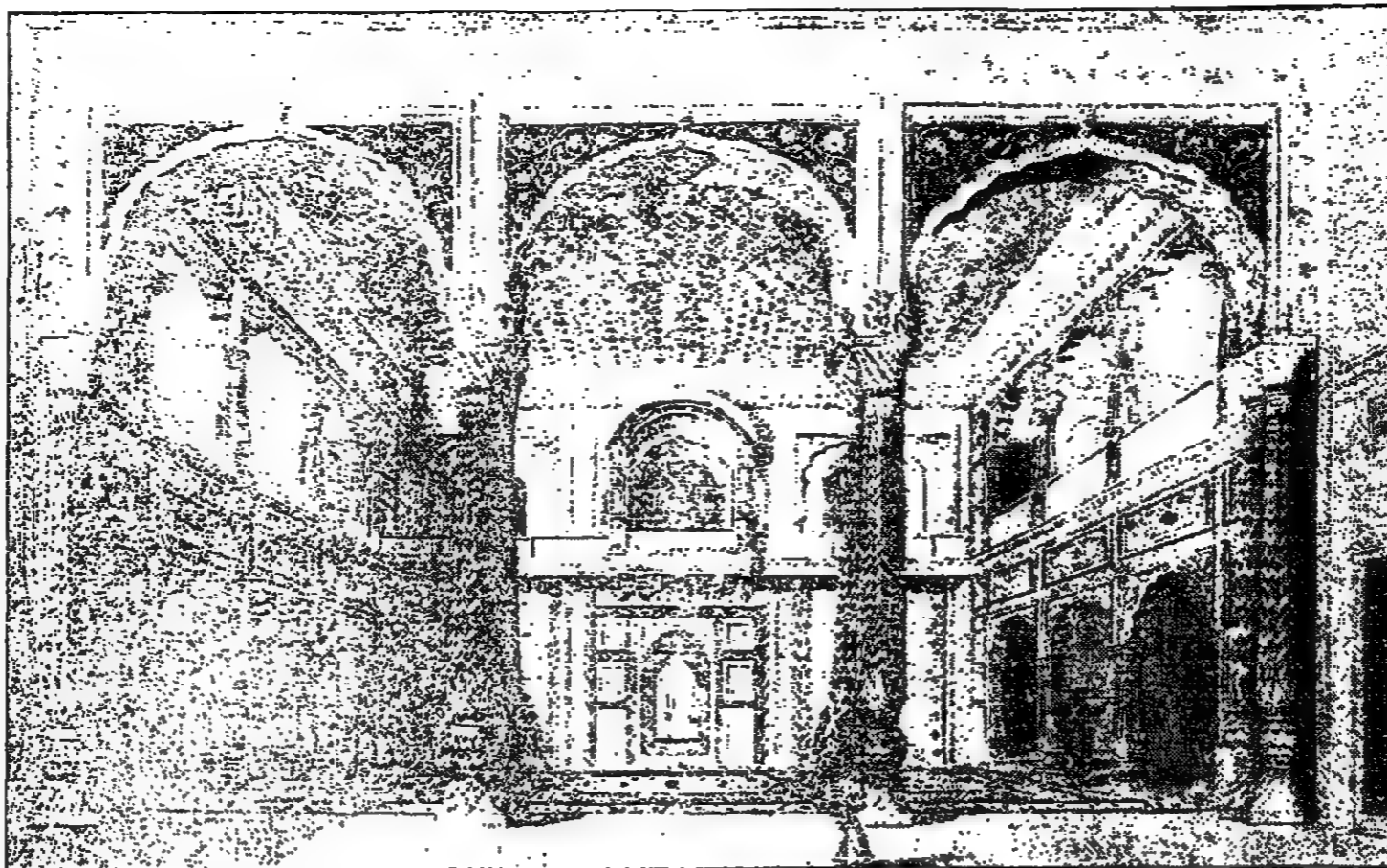
The encounters of West and East have not always been disastrous. Certainly not in art, where there has been, through the centuries, much two-way traffic. Between ancient China and Greece, for instance, as a British Museum show once pointed out, and between modern France and Japan, where early this century Japanese artists rediscovered, with variations, that which their print-making ancestors had taught the French Impressionists a generation earlier.

This was not the first fruitful contact between Japan and Europe. The vogue in the West for Japanese porcelain began around 1659, when there was an export monopoly shared by Holland and China. At first it was a simple case of exporting a selection of what was made: the blue-and-white porcelain which so delighted the Dutch in the 17th century. Then it was the turn of the sometimes luridly coloured wares: the Imari and the Kakiemon. Before long, Japanese manufacturers began fulfilling Western needs.

This interchange is absorbingly chronicled in the British Museum show *Porcelain for Palaces*. The nominal subject is the fashion in Europe between 1650 and 1750 for Japanese goods. But the show also examines the cultural relationships, the understandings and, especially, the misunderstandings.

By the middle of this period, the interest in Japanese porcelain had become a mania. The Japanese gained some idea of what the West wanted from them. But this was a process fraught with misunderstanding. So was the main alternative, the wholesale copying of Japanese designs by Western potters. From Meissen to Worcester, the shapes were aped, notably that of the so-called "Hampton Court Jar", with its many facets, which is still a staple of the art of post-modernist Allan McCollum.

Meanwhile at Christie's, *Chinnery and the China Coast* is drawn from the collections of the Hongkong and Shanghai banks. The earlier outing of this show in Hong Kong was the first public exhibition for most of the works. The main interest in the collection is the early contacts, especially trade contacts, between the British and Chinese. The great artist in this area was George Chinnery, who left London in 1802, spent time in Calcutta, and his last 27 years in Macau. As the show's curator, Nigel Cameron, points



In the eye of the tiger: The interior of Tipu's palace, Srirangapatna, by an unknown artist, circa 1800

out, Chinnery is by far the biggest fish in a rather small pond.

Cut off for so long from European art, Chinnery became increasingly an anachronism, but there is no arguing with his sparkling draughtsmanship and sharp observation. If he had stayed in England it is possible nobody would have heard much of him, but the exotic nature of his work helped him to lasting fame and the place of honour in the bank's collection of some 250 works. 31 of which are shown included in this show.

Another show which documents a fascinating, unstable, and occasionally explosive East-West relationship is the British Library's *Calcutta City of Palaces*, celebrating the city's 300th anniversary. The show concentrates largely on the splendours, which mostly came between 1773 and 1853, when Calcutta was capital of the East India Company's dominions. It was primarily a Western city dropped down in the East, and the art which commemorates it is inevitably mostly Western. There are imposing glimpses of the streets and buildings, through the eyes of Thomas Daniel, another wandering Briton who preceded Chinnery in Calcutta by about some 20 years. Also included are portraits, documents and those curious subject-pictures, which

now raise anti-colonialist hackles by confining Indians to the margins.

Tigers round the Throne is the Zamana Gallery's tribute to Tipu Sultan. When the British finally beat the Indian leader, they were the first to admire, rather shamefacedly, his pride and valour, his fierceness in battle and prompt disappearance in defeat. There was a certain monstrous glee in Tipu's short way with defeated

enemies, or indeed anybody who had momentarily crossed him.

He was also a better administrator than has been supposed, and the examples of the decorative arts of his court also tell a different story. He was obsessed with the image of the tiger, and everything that can be tiger-shaped or at least tiger-striped is included. Some of the results are beautiful, and certainly show him in a more complex light than before.



Palace fashion: porcelain bowl, Japan 1710-39

## CRITIC'S CHOICE: GALLERIES

**SURREAL:** It is surprising the number of survivors from British Surrealism of the Thirties who are still active in their eighties or even nineties. Perhaps this demonstrates the truth of the show's subtitle "a permanent state of lucidity". John Bonham and Murray Peay, 46 Percheron Road, London W2 (071-221 7208) Tues-Sat, 10.30am-12.30pm, 2.30-5.30pm, until September 15.

**PICTURESQUE:** The park at Kenwood has been well preserved, a Repton landscape close to the heart of London. How has it evolved? How can it be saved from change? Should it be? See the show and find out. Kenwood House, Hampstead Lane, London NW3 (081-348 1289), September, daily 10am-6pm, October, daily 10am-4pm, until October 28.

**WRIT IN WATER:** The Royal Watercolour Society is an institution somewhat comparable to the Royal

**Porcelain for Palaces**, British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (071-436 1555) until November 4. **Chinnery and the China Coast**, Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (071-839 9060) until Sept 7.

**Calcutta City of Palaces**, British Library, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (071-323 7111) until September 30.

**Tigers round the Throne**, Zamana Gallery, 1 Cromwell Gardens, London SW7 (071-554 6612) until October 14.

**Academy in its natural conservatism** and its occasional urgencies towards the new. The annual Summer Open offers a very fair conspectus. Bankside Gallery, 48 Hopton Street, Blackfriars, London SE1 (071-928 7521), Tues, 10am-8pm, Wed-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 1-5pm, until September 8.

**ON CLASSIC GROUND:** Picasso, Léger, de Chirico and the New Classicism (1910-30).

Tate Gallery, Millbank, London, SW1 (071-621 1313) Mon-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun, 2-5.50pm, £4 (£2) Ends Sunday.

**FAKE? THE ART OF DECEPTION:** Over 600 examples from ancient to modern day. British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (071-636 1555/6), Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2.30-6pm, free. Ends Sunday.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

## CLASSICAL MUSIC: PROMS

## An air of humanity

FLAWLESS technique and an ultra-refined sound are not necessarily the most essential qualities of a fine orchestra. As far as technical ability is concerned, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, for instance, probably does not reach the level of some of the London orchestras. But when Simon Rattle conducts, it consistently plays above itself, as if palpable commitment were a matter of life and death.

A similar intensity of concentration and inspiration, and a similar youthful vitality, also inform the playing of the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra. Small matters like momentarily shaky violin tone, slightly imperfect woodwind tuning, or a very rare split note from the brass, such as we heard once or twice in their two Promenade concerts, matter not one jot. Or perhaps they do matter, like the attire of the Rotterdam orchestra's male musicians — ordinary open-necked white shirts and no jackets — they help to give the music-making a human air.

Jeffrey Tate takes over as music director of the orchestra next year; he is a fortunate man. Though inevitably there were one or two tiny accidents, the orchestra's performance of Mahler's Sixth Symphony under the baton of James Conlon on Tuesday was garished with some highly distinguished solo playing, from the principal trumpet, horn, oboe and cor anglais players in particular.

More than that, however, this was an account whose spirit enabled the piece to envelop the listener forcefully. This was the kind of performance that actually leaves audiences speechless with shock. Conlon powered his players ever onward, enabling them to invoke the music's full power as it tells of man's, or Mahler's, terror.

To make sure the awesome final message was understood, Mahler's perhaps faint-hearted option — of playing just two of the three hammer blows that act also as important structural markers in that massive finale — was here ignored. Conlon also opted to place the slow movement third, not, as Mahler had it in the first performance, second. The result was that its emotive nostalgia, sublime and lyrical but far from being simply the calm before the storm of doom, triggered emotional reactions that were, in a different way, just as painful.

A relentless opening March, darker and grimmer than usual — perhaps because of the aural prominence of the lower brass instruments — was not lightened by the following scherzo, a movement that Donald Mitchell aptly described in his note as "the death-march re-written in dance form", and which here sounded as dark, threatening and grotesque as those words suggest. Quite simply, the symphony would not let the listener out of his grasp.

Such was not quite the case in Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony

the following evening, though again the Rotterdam PO gave a full-blooded account. For all the similarities between the two works, Shostakovich's nightmare visions, though equally terrifying (or perhaps more so, since they have their basis not in a fear of what was to come, but in the experience of what had already happened) are not expressed with the same intensity.

The piece also came at the end of a rather weaker programme which had begun with the Dutch composer Ed de Boer's *Homage to Dmitri Shostakovich*, a somewhat empty and too literal parody, all insistent rhythms, sparkling pianos and shrieking piccolos.

Britten's Piano Concerto, a complex work uncertain of its own direction or flavour, but an appealing one nevertheless, was dispatched with efficient brilliance and much power by Peter Donohoe. The prelude to Mahler's Violin Concerto, K216, a happy aesthetic contrast, particularly given the bold (sometimes too bold) colouring and phrasing of the soloist, Isabelle van Keulen.

Immediately after the allfresco party offered by the All Stars Steel Band in Kensington Park on Monday afternoon, in refreshing deference to the fact that it was the second day of the Notting Hill Carnival, those of a suitably contemplative disposition were able to hear the Beaux Arts Trio in, typically well-considered readings of Haydn, Ravel and Schubert's great E flat Piano Trio, D929. Yet the heaviness of the humid weather sometimes seemed to get the better of the playing, and certainly the Schubert would have benefited from more attention to light, shade and impetus.

In the evening the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Gennady Rozhdestvensky gave Schubert's Ninth Symphony a sound, though once more occasionally sluggish performance before the traditional hour or so of lighter music, this year devoted to Offenbach as well as the two Johann Strausses. Rozhdestvensky's selection was conducted with exactly the right degree of personable extroversion.

In my piece last Monday on the Montepulciano cantieri I suggested that the conductor Jan Latham-Koenig was responsible for the decline in the festival's fortunes between 1981 and 1989 and a corresponding drop in enrolment at the town's institute of music. It has been pointed out to me that between 1981 and 1989 the festival was run by a committee appointed by the town council, on which Jan Latham-Koenig served only until 1986, and that he was never responsible for the institute. I recognise therefore that there was no foundation for my suggestion, and am happy to set the record straight and offer my apologies to Jan Latham-Koenig.

STEPHEN PETTIT

## RECORD REVIEWS: OPERA

## Gazza steals another winner

THE small Adriatic resort of Pesaro has been doing well recently by its most famous son, Rossini. The annual celebration of his music is one of Europe's newer festivals and has swiftly become one of the best. The choice for the major new production tends to fall on a Rossini opera that is either unknown or little performed. Expense is not spared in the casting and the standard of conducting is generally of the highest.

The 1989 selection, *La gazza ladra* (The Thieving Magpie) sums it all up. Katia Ricciarelli and Samuel Ramey, two Pesaro regulars, led the cast and Gianluigi Gelmetti, a conductor scarcely deluged and underappreciated in Britain, inspired the Turin Symphony in an orchestral performance which had a pure Rossinian spring in its step. Sony were smart to move in fast and record the opera live.

Everybody knows the overture with its opening drumroll which brings the unsuspecting to their feet in anticipation that someone's national anthem is about to be played. What happens thereafter is less familiar. Sadler's Wells had a go at the *Magpie* in the mid Sixties, with Catherine Wilson as the soprano lead, Ninetta. It was revived briefly at the Coliseum, but never really became popular. Part of the problem perhaps was that it was neither comic Rossini nor the grand Rossini, with his penchant for treating lofty Old Testament subjects, who was just being rediscovered.

Much of the quality of the Pesaro performance comes from the determination of everyone to treat *La gazza ladra* as the highly individual work it is. Rossini wrote it as a true example of *semiserie* opera. The theme is slight: Ninetta is accused of stealing her employer's silver and there is no need to look beyond the title of the work to spot the culprit. The treatment is majestic, with massive finales plus a Judgement Scene in the very grandest manner in which Ninetta is condemned to death. Rossini takes his time with his music — Act I runs not far short of two hours — and puts considerable demands on his singers.

Pesaro's cast is well up to

Rossini: *La gazza ladra*. Ricciarelli/Matteuzzi/Ramey/Furianetto. RAI Symphony Orchestra of Turin/Gelmetti. Sony SSK 45 850. (Three CDs)  
Schubert: *Faust*. Mattila/Studer/Protschka/Hampson. Chamber Orchestra of Europe/Abbado. DG 427 941-2. (Two CDs)

them. Ricciarelli is a little arch at the start but then slips into her sweetest stride as Rossini's put-upon heroine. Her prison duet with Pippo (Bernadette Manca di Nissa), a trouser role, is pure delight. Surprisingly for an opera of this period, 1817, the serving girl does win her high-born lover Gianetto (William Matteuzzi) having no trouble with a heady tenor role but not before being pawed by the local mayor. In that part Samuel Ramey provides some bravura singing as a lascivious Basilio figure. The weakness of the opera is its subplot concerning Ninetta's father, an army deserter, and Feruccio Furianetto is none too convincing in the part.

As in so much Rossini it is the shaping of the ensemble which counts and Gelmetti excels here. It is extraordinary that Covent Garden, after bringing in a succession of mediocre Italian conductors recently, has not had the wit to engage him.

It was at Pesaro a few years back that Claudio Abbado uncovered Rossini's *Il viaggio a Reims*. Now in Vienna he has turned to unknown Schubert in the shape of *Faust*. It started, in the staging by Ruth Berghaus, at the Theater an der Wien during the Vienna Festival and is now in the repertoire of the Staatsoper. Once again an operatic rarity comes into the catalogue courtesy of a festival and a recording assembled from live performances.

Like *La gazza ladra*, *Faust* is a long opera, but unlike the Rossini much of its length derives from substantial tracts of spoken dialogue. DG's answer is to slice all this away and keep in only the musical numbers which fit comfortably onto two CDs. Schubert's score is — and how could it be otherwise from this source — consistently melodious, with several flashes of martial grandeur thrown in. The feel of *Faust* is never too far away in a tale of lovers

finally united after passing through the travails of war.

Schubert wrote it in 1823 for Vienna's Kärntner Theater, but after the failure of Weber's *Euryanthe* that same year, the management got cold feet about backing another opera in similar style. It was put on the shelf until a revival at the turn of the century. Abbado's personal enthusiasm has been needed to take the dust off it again.

The vocal honours go to Thomas Hampson as the Frankish knight, Roland, and Cheryl Studer, who does not appear until Act II, as the Moorish princess whom he loves. Their joint vocal commitment makes the rival pair (Katia Mattila and Robert Gambill) seem pallid. Josef Protschka is suitably tormented as the lonely figure of Faust. But it is the orchestra which dominates everything from the marches to the many ensembles. Abbado is ever the king and makes the Chamber Orchestra of Europe play Schubert every inch as well as they played *Viaggio* for him a few years ago.

JOHN HIGGINS



Fending off the mayor: Katia Ricciarelli and Samuel Ramey in *La gazza ladra*

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## RADIO

# Hard fight for easy listening

Clive Davis on how the middle brow is served by Britain's radio revolution

A new dance music station, Kiss FM, goes on the air in the London area tomorrow, joining the competition for the youth market. Young people have always been a chic and lucrative target. Yet there are stirrings at the less fashionable end of the dial. "Grey Power" is making itself felt in the radio industry. With ever-increasing reserves of wealth at their disposal, middle-aged, middle-brow listeners are soon likely to be courted as never before.

The question is, what does this self-effacing segment of the population want? Is it the all-round, public service output of Radio 2? Or, given the choice, would it prefer the kind of non-stop, chat-free easy listening offered by Lord Hanson's Melody FM, the new London-based station modelled on America's "beautiful music" networks?

Nearly eight weeks after it was launched, Melody FM has yet to win over media observers. Radio critics have been uncompromising about the "twin set and pearls" image. There have been scathing comments, too, about the music: in the early days at least, the playlist could hardly have been more obvious than the songs by Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole or the Beach Boys to feeble instrumentalists rarely heard outside of shopping malls. (One reason for this, observers say, is that Melody's staff have had difficulties in obtaining original vintage material.) Most of the complaints, however, nevertheless, have been over the stark presentation. Downplaying the role of the presenter has been the station's selling point.

"They actually have some high-class voices," says Julian Clover, of the trade magazine *Radio and Music*. "But they need to put across a little more personality. At the moment, you could say, they're speaking with their voices tied behind their back. A lot of older people who listen to that kind of music want company. They like to have Gloria Hunniford talking to them, and they're attracted by the well-known guests."

Naturally, Melody FM is fighting back. There certainly does seem to be more cohesion in the programming, organised around lengthy "sweeps" of one particular style of music. The station manager, Sheila Porritt, claims that the

venture has aroused a greater audience response than any other new IBA station. Listeners, she adds, have been enthusiastic about the lack of "presenter prattle". "We were launched in the quickest-ever time for a commercial station, so we have been building up our policy from scratch. As far as the presentation is concerned, our output does not work in an 'interactive' way. The critics expected it to conform to normal practices. I don't think they've been able to handle the shock."

Porritt's main argument is that the station is serving a section of the public, the over-45s, which was previously disenfranchised. These are people who prefer music to chat, and who find their favourite tunes are no longer being aired elsewhere.

Some of Porritt's criticisms are echoed by Mike Hollingsworth, the former TV-am executive who is now a member of a consortium which hopes to win one of the three national networks to be set up under the new Broadcasting Act. A proposal for an easy-listening station, Radio GB, is among the 37 letters of intent that have been submitted for scrutiny.

Hollingsworth has a low opinion of Melody FM ("You might as well ask me my view of Muzak in a lift"). He also believes that Radio 2 has drifted away from its core audience. His ideal channel would build on the virtues of the old Light Programme, a network, he recalls, which had a far broader remit: "Radio 2 has become the Radio 1 of ten years ago. I remember sitting down to Sunday lunch and listening to the Light Programme and hearing *Two-Way Family Favourites*, followed by something like *Round The Home*. There was real diversity."

"In the Sixties the BBC introduced a more generic approach, dividing the stations up according to content. But I don't think human nature has changed: a lot of people still switch between, say, Jimmy Young on Radio 2 and *The World At One* on Radio 4. Radio 2 seems to have lost touch with its older listeners."

Details of the consortium's plans are still confidential, but Hollingsworth indicates that one feature will be a "drama workshop" which would generate its



Gloria Hunniford, stalwart of Radio 2: The kind of presenter older listeners want to hear?

own comedy programmes. The aim, he says, is to make the comedy output pay for itself through eventual sales to the television networks. Whether the venture will ever succeed remains to be seen.

In the meantime Radio 2 appears confident that it can stand up to any possible challenge. Its recently installed controller, Frances Line, upset many listeners with her restructuring of the schedules, but they are now prom-

ised there will be no more major changes for the time being. Julian Clover believes that the network has benefited from the changes: "It is beginning to move with the times. Radio 2 used to be indistinguishable from Radio 1. Since Frances Line took over, it has acquired its own identity."

The corporation's attitude to the Melody FM format is slightly dismissive. "I think we're aiming at a different market," a spokesman says. "The essence of Radio 2

is company with entertainment, whereas Melody just plays records, and does not provide as much in the way of human contact."

As for the notion of a return to old traditions, the response is just as firm. "The Light Programme was part of a trio of networks, and had to provide a more mixed package. We now have to cover five channels. The Light Programme lives better in the memory than re-enacted now."

## ARTS

## RECORD REVIEWS: ROCK

## Smouldering soul with hip-hop touch

Titiyo: Titiyo (Anita 260 977).  
Anthrax: Persistence of Time (Island ILPS 9967).  
Hank Wangford: Stormy Horizons (Sincere Sounds RUE 004).  
Dread Zeppelin: Un-led-Ed (IRS EIRS 1042).  
Duran Duran: Liberty (Parlophone TPCSD 112).

THE curiously named Titiyo has the good fortune to be Neneh Cherry's half-sister. While this provides a handy introductory peg, the family connection has little bearing on her music, save for a vaguely similar touch of insouciance which the two have in common.

Where Cherry creates a delightful post-hip hop *melange* of rap, house and pop melody, Titiyo is a new breed of soul singer, one whose style and sound is ideally suited to the Soul II Soul generation. On "Peace and Quiet" she conjures a smouldering mood against the rhythmic ebb and flow of a typical Jazzie B-style drum track.

She has recruited the services of her percussionist father Ahmadu Jah and the saxophonist Manu Dibango on several tracks and gets the best of both worlds on "Do My Thing" by applying a cool jazz dynamic to a modern dancefloor beat.

Nor is she shy about hauling in a string section and a Miles Davis-type trumpeter (Jon Reckdahl) on "After the Rain", or enlisting the services of rapid-fire reggae rapper Papa Dee on "Body and Mind" and "L.O.V.E.". For these and other bold touches which lift the album out of the ordinary, credit must go to Titiyo's producer and song-writer partner Magnus Frykberg. But it is she who puts the songs across with irresistible verve in a strong, supple voice that doubtless will be a lot more in the near future.

WHEN they started nine years ago, Anthrax, along with Metallica and the wave of thrash metal bands that followed in their wake, offered a revolutionary variation on the then staid formula of heavy metal. Sadly, on *Persistence of Time* they are now as bogged down by the over-familiar precepts of their formula as Black Sabbath ever were by the constant search for a way to repeat "Paranoid" or "War Pigs".

Power chord riffs played at preposterous speeds whizz past in a smooth gelatinous flow while the usual lyrical preoccupations — death, hate, violence, freedom, mass murder — are hammered out in a free-form blast of uniformly cathartic belligerence, rather like those drunks who stagger along, yelling in a startling manner at nobody in particular. After a while attention wanders.

"BRITAIN'S only Country and Western superstar", Hank Wangford, began his career in music lampooning the genre he loves so dearly. With each successive release it gets harder to spot where the parody ends and the sincerity begins. But on *Stormy Horizons*, several deft touches remind us that he is still the same seedy Englishman who longs to immerse himself in the folklore of American country music but knows both himself and his subject well enough to realise that only through satire can he be true to his cause.

His rendition of "This Cold War" — a Floyd Tillman's heart-rending tale of emotional strife — is quirkily humorous, with its hyper-twang guitar solo played (on a six-string bass) by co-producer Martin Belmont. The jokey polka "Tongue Tied" and the obligatory Wangford religious spoof, "I'm Using My Bible for a Road Map", may also raise a smile, although on the Celtic-influenced "Ghosts" and "Stormy Horizons" itself Wangford plays his serious card with barely a hint of a bluff. His position as the Clown Prince of Country is assured but he is still in no danger of acquiring gravitas.

LIKE Wangford, Dread Zeppelin have reached for comedy as the only possible way of combining their passions for reggae, Led Zeppelin and Elvis Presley into a viable package. On *Un-led-Ed* their reggae versions of songs like "Whole Lotta Love", "Immigrant Song", "I Can't Quit You Baby" and "Black Dog", with vocals sung in a pastiche of Elvis Presley's style by a singer calling himself Tortelvis, actually make remarkably pleasant and entertaining listening. It is a success because, like Wangford, they have done their research with loving care and attention to detail and are musically fluent in each of the unlikely jumble of styles which they have elected to fuse together.

UNFASHIONABLE but undaunted, Duran Duran are still hanging in there; apparently their last album, the dreadful *Big Thing*, sold more than two million copies. *Liberty* is a marginally better effort with recently-recruited guitarist Warren Cuccurullo doing a fair approximation of the Adrian Belew shriek on "All Along the Water", and even a nod in the direction of contemporaneous hip-hop on the backing track of "Can You Deal with It". But with its brash chord sequences and polished veneer of pseudo-adult sophistication, *Liberty* is nevertheless the musical equivalent of cheap aftershave.



Anthrax: Hammered out lyrics

## RECORD REVIEW: JAZZ

## Sounds stretching south of the border

Carol Kidd: *The Night We Called It A Day* (Linn AKH-CD007).  
Benny Goodman: *B.G. in Hi-Fi* (Capitol CDP7-92864).

IN HER native Scotland, Carol Kidd has long been acclaimed as Britain's outstanding jazz singer. Her reputation has spread more slowly south of the border. With this latest release the evidence in her favour looks impressive.

Acquiring a new backing band seems to have made all the difference. Kidd's previous trio was amiable enough, but perhaps not sufficiently sophisticated to meet the demands of her voice. The group sometimes appeared stuck on a treadmill of never-ending re-runs of "Satin Doll". The new line-up — Dave Newton (piano), Dave Green (bass) and Allan Ganley (drums) — belongs in another league altogether. Newton, in particular, is a graceful and sympathetic player who can span a broad range of styles without sacrificing his own individuality.

Poised and introspective, the material leans towards lesser-known standards typified by "How Little We Know" and "Gordon Jenkins' 'I Loved Him' — the latter with its coy opening line, "He was Boston, I was Vegas". Kidd's voice occasionally shows signs of strain in her upper register. On a few tracks there are flawless renditions, imbued with character and warmth, above all, the album stands on its

own terms: there is seldom a temptation to look for comparisons with the past.

Benny Goodman had passed the most creative phase of his career by 1934, the year of *B.G. in Hi-Fi*. That should be no excuse for overlooking this splendid compilation of big band and small group performances, superbly recorded by Capitol's mono engineers.

For the big band tracks, Goodman relied heavily on the sensual, rhythmic arrangements of Fletcher Henderson, with a dip into the Basie charts on "Jumpin' at the Woodside". The clarity of sound is refreshing, compare, for example, the storming account of Horace Henderson's "Big John's Special", one of the milestones of the swing era, with the crudely recorded finale on the 1938 Carnegie Hall concert. As for the nimble small group pieces, "Air-mail Special" and "Get Happy" show that Goodman and trumpeter Charlie Shavers were capable of matching the beboppers.

The young Ruby Braff appears in the brass section of the big band, as well as on one of the quintet sessions. His ripe, studied vibrato makes a telling contrast with Shaver's quick-fire attack. Spread over 20 tracks *B.G. in Hi-Fi* is an enduring testament to Goodman's mastery of dance music. And, yes, there is space for another round of "Stompin' at the Savoy".

CLIVE DAVIS

## CRITICS' CHOICE: ROCK, JAZZ AND WORLD MUSIC

## ROCK

**SONIC YOUTH:** The drama of their show depends as much on whether they can be bothered to acknowledge the existence of the audience as it does on the peat mill rhythms and unpredictable squalls of feedback that are their stock-in-trade. McGonigley, South St Anne Street, Dublin (010 3531 774022). Sun, 8pm, £5.50. Concor Hall, University of Ulster, York Street, Belfast (0232 329666). Mon, 7.30pm, £5.50. Barrowlands, 244 Gallowgate, Glasgow (041 226 4679). Tues, 7.30pm, £5.50. Rock City, 8 Talbot Street, Nottingham (0602 412544). Wed, 8pm, £5.50.

**DEACON BLUE:** The natural choice to headline the Big Day in Glasgow last June, here they are again, plugging a middle-of-the-road EP of completely remastered Bacharach and David songs. Aberdeen Conference and Exhibition Centre, The Bridge of Don (0224 824824). Tues, Wed, 7.30pm, £13.10.

**FLEETWOOD MAC:** Despite the addition of new guitarist Rick Vito and Billy Burnette and the enduring presence of John McVie and Mick Fleetwood, attention continues to focus on keyboard player Christine McVie and vocalist Steve Nicks, as they chart a course through a repertoire stuffed with melodic, haunting riffs. Also on the bill are "progressive rock" warhorses Jemio Tull and Neil & Oates. Wembley Stadium (081 900 1234). Tomorrow, gates 4pm, £20.

**STEVE EARLE AND THE DUKE:** Just New Country rocker Earle has a disarming tendency to imagine he is Bruce Springsteen and thus able to sustain a three-hour set. Perhaps the presence of a decent support act — Irish blue-collar hopefuels Energy Orchard — will encourage restraint. Wolverhampton Civic Hall, St Peter's Square (0902 312030). Wed, 7.30pm, £7.50-£8.50. Apollo, Ardwick Green, Manchester (061 273 3775). Thurs, 7.30pm, £7.50-£8.50.

DAVID SINCLAIR

## EARLY WARNING

**COCTEAU TWINS:** The UK tour is as follows: October 25, Barnswells, Glasgow (041 552 4601). 26, Royal Court, Liverpool (051 709 4321). 28, City Hall, Sheffield (0742 722855). 31, Brighton Academy, London (071 336 1022). November 1-2, Town & Country Club, London (071 264 0303).

**THE CHRISTIANS:** UK dates include October 7, Empire, Liverpool (051 709 1555). 8, N.E.C., Birmingham (021 780 4133). 11, Wembley Arena (081 902 1234). 15, B.C. Bournemouth (0202 297297). 16, Brighton Centre (0273 202881). November 8, G-Mex, Manchester (061 832 9000). December 1, Playhouse, Edinburgh (031 557 2590).

## JAZZ

**DON CHERRY:** The pocket trumpet player pursues his world music experiments with his new ensemble, "Muh-Kult". Round Midnight Jazz Festival, Queen's Hall, Clerk Street, Edinburgh (031 668 2019), tonight 7.30pm, £7, £8.50. Outside In (see below), Sun, 9pm, day ticket £12.

**JAZZ IN THE HAY:** The festival ends with performances by, among others, Ims Williams and The New Squaredances Orchestra (tonight). Chris Barber (tomorrow) and Humphrey Lyttelton's "Echoes of Duke" tribute with Helen Shapiro (Sun). The Pavement Hays on Wye (Information 0497 830000), until Sun, prices vary.

**OUTSIDE IN:** Apart from Don Cherry (see above), the annual gathering of avant garde, fusion and "progressive" elements includes Andy Sheppard's unlikely pseudo-big band, 23rd Street Saxophone Quartet, pianist Don Pullen (both tomorrow) and trash poseur John Zorn (Sun). Haverhill Centre, The Haverhill, Crawley (0293 553636). Tomorrow 1pm-5pm, Sun, 1pm-10.30pm, weekend ticket £22.

## WORLD MUSIC

**FYLDE FOLK FESTIVAL:** One of the last summer festivals, this event features more than 80 acts at 16 venues including Dick Gaughan, Battlefield Band and Gypsy Reel. Manna Hall, Fleetwood, Lancashire (03917 2317), today-Sun, weekend tickets £21.

**GLOBAL PICKNICK:** The second of Trafford's world music festivals plays geographical hopscotch, leading from the Madagascan Acropolis of Kenya and Australian Aboriginal rock and traditional Northern Territory music from Yothu Yindi to Stranikar Ghosh and his unusual Calcutta Drum Orchestra. Seymour Park, Seymour Grove, Old Trafford, Manchester (061 224 0020), Sun, 1.5pm free.

**VISHWA MOHAN BHATT:** The guitar is a rarity in Indian classical music but Mohan Bhatt is a virtuoso who reflects his position as a senior disciple of Ravi Shankar. For this concert he will be accompanied by the Kathak dancer Renu Bhatt. Midland Art Centre, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham (021 440 4221), Thurs, 7.30pm, £5.50.

CLIVE DAVIS

DAVID TOOP

## A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

Part 44 of David Sinclair's collectors' A-Z, a guide to the essential albums of the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in this series, an act

must have sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mastered at least one decent album during that time. The entries are designed to be passed

on to index cards and stored in a bin by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops, to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

## THE ROLLING STONES

That notorious slogan "the greatest rock and roll band in the world" began life in 1970 as a triumphant flourish of promotional hyperbole at the start of the Rolling Stones' finest album, *Get Yer Ya-Ya's Out*. What follows which propelled their recordings made *The Rolling Stones* (1984) one of the most incendiary debut releases ever. Pitched at the time in direct contrast to the cute harmonies and love-dovey lyrics of the Beatles, here the Stones whipped through a catalogue of teat, clanky riffs. These are mostly of American origin, with Mick Jagger bawling the lyrics to hits such as "Route 66", "Can I Get a Woman?" and "I Just Want to Make Love to You" with all the untamed declamatory turbulence at his command. Maintaining a staggering work rate throughout the Sixties, the Stones clocked up numerous hit singles.



Truculent Mick Jagger

encapsulates better than any other Stones album the dark craft at the heart of their music. Some Girls (1978) found the Stones tackling the spectra of middle-age crisis head-on with Keith Richards' plaintive admission of changed circumstances, "Before They Make Me Run", while adroitly sidestepping the challenge of punk with the hugely successful disco pastiche, "Miss You". *Tattoo You* (1981), a new album comprised of later emerged, if mostly left over from the Seventies, still sounds fresh. It further testament to the extraordinary longevity of the band's appeal is still required, look no further than the ecstatic reception deservedly afforded to *Steel Wheels*, in 1989.

NEXT WEEK: *Roxy Music*, *The Sex Pistols*

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# BUSINESS

FRIDAY AUGUST 31 1990

City Editor  
John Bell

## British Coal plunges £5bn into the red

By DEREK HARRIS, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH Coal has cleared the decks for privatisation by declaring a £5 billion loss after exceptional costs.

The government has written off accumulated losses, reduced fixed assets valuations and made other provisions that plunge the corporation deep into the red, but which will make it much more attractive to potential investors.

The government has said it intends to privatise British Coal if it is returned to power after the next general election, which must be called before July 1992.

The write-offs, with £4.2 billion going on past losses and capital revaluations, were not the only factor depressing the British Coal performance. Last year was also its worst 12 months since the 1984 pit strike, with operating profits crashing 73 per cent.

Operating profit last year was £133 million against £498 million for 1988 but high interest charges of £574 million drove British Coal into an overall loss before the exceptional items of £441 million against a £66 million profit last time.

Lord Haslam, the corporation's chairman, said it was

the last time British Coal would face "impossibly" high interest burdens, and he predicted a profit in this financial year, for the first time in more than a decade.

British Coal made a £50 million operating profit in the three months from this April, even though it is traditionally the second worst quarter for coal sales, Lord Haslam said.

"Last year's figures are history now and these new encouraging results give an indicator for the future," he said. "I firmly believe that our industry has a profitable and secure long-term future. All the encouraging events in the first quarter of the new financial year underpin that conviction."

The competitive challenge for British Coal is emphasised by three-year contracts with electricity generators which has cut its sales to them by 5 million tonnes a year to 70 million tonnes in the first two years and then to 65 million in the final year. The contract prices would bring an income loss of £150 million in real terms each year.

It meant that British Coal would see more restructuring as it sought to further reduce costs and improve productivity, Lord Haslam said. He

admitted that last year's diminished operating profit was "an undoubted disappointment — a real setback after the encouraging trend of recent years."

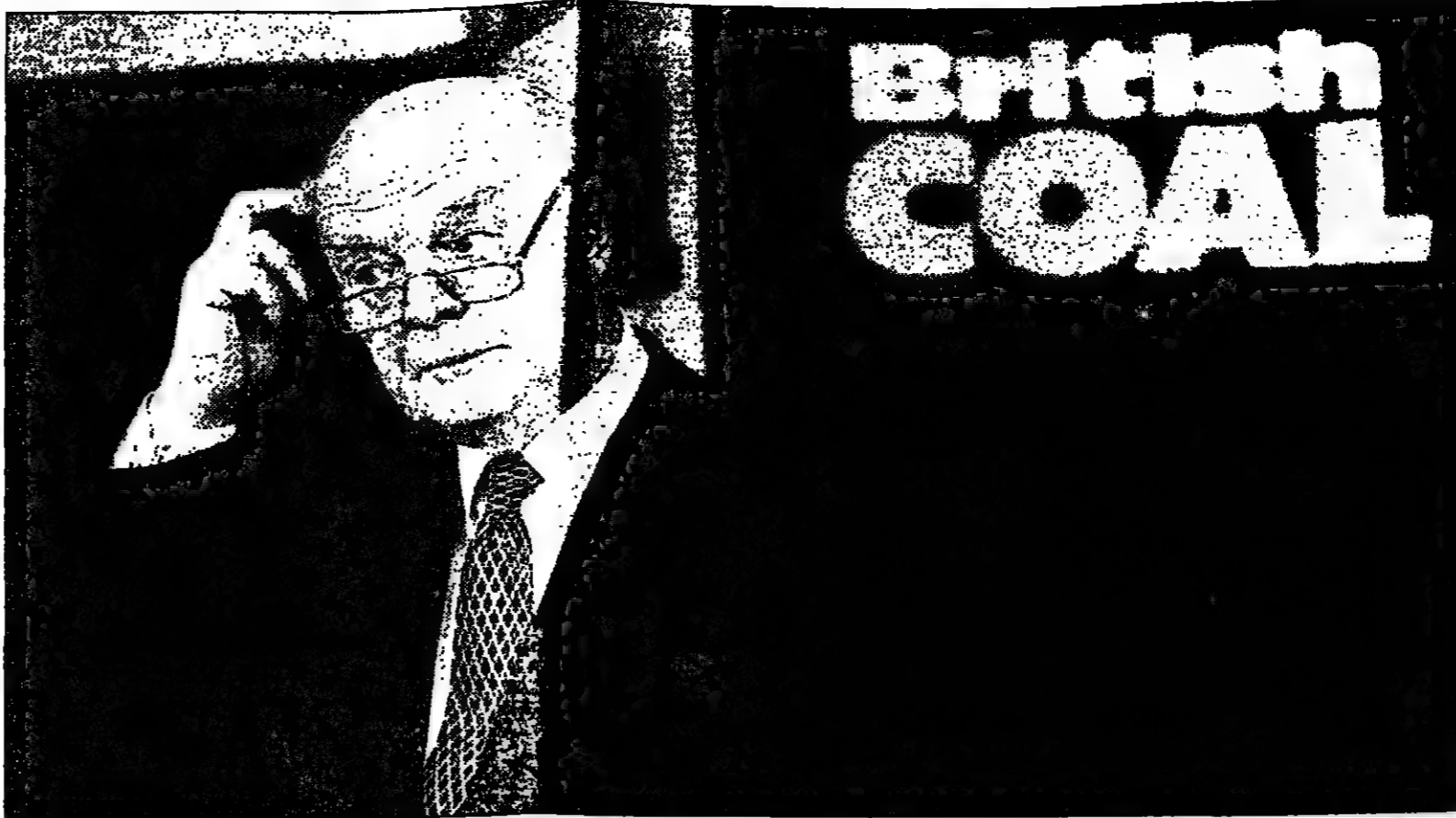
He blamed an "extraordinary sequence" of major geological problems affecting a quarter of the collieries, a low productivity increase and the third mild winter in a row. Sales were down by 5 million tonnes which wiped out potential profits of £300 million.

Two thirds of last year's fallback was accounted for by the sales decline and the rest by the combined effect of geological and productivity problems.

Tougher competition led to closure of 13 more collieries and the loss of more than 20,000 jobs.

It was confirmed that another 7,500 colliery jobs are to go plus 2,000 elsewhere in the organization. Four pits with exhausted reserves will close this year and two more are under review for possible closure.

Performance related bonuses for British Coal directors, which have a 25 per cent ceiling, dropped to 5 per cent or less last year. The previous year's bonuses had been about 20 per cent.



Coal gloom: Lord Haslam, British Coal chairman, said the fall in operating profit was a major setback after recent encouraging trends

## Hanson in surprise Newmont share sale

By COLIN CAMPBELL

HANSON, which acquired a 49.1 per cent stake in America's Newmont Mining Corporation through last year's takeover of Consolidated Gold Fields, is selling 8.4 million of its Newmont shares. The move has surprised analysts and depressed mining markets.

The sale will cut Hanson's stake in Newmont to 26 per cent.

The move is being made as part of a Newmont exercise to offer an overall 12 million shares to the public. The 12 million comprises 3.6 million new shares sold directly by Newmont and 8.4 million shares being offered by Hanson.

The sale price of the 12 million parcel will be determined later, but based on yesterday's \$44.63 a share quote, Hanson stands to reap at least \$375 million, with an additional \$13 million on the sale of warrants. In time, a further \$300 million cash injection could come from Hanson's way.

Sir Gordon White, chairman of Hanson Industries, said the sale would raise cash for Newmont. In addition, it would "afford (Hanson) the opportunity to monetise a portion of our investment while continuing to maintain a significant stake in Newmont."

Only two weeks ago, Hanson made an unusual announcement detailing all its direct and indirect interests in gold, including a 49 per cent interest in Newmont's gold reserves of 20.7 million ounces.

Hanson's interest in Newmont's reserves will now fall from 10.1 million ounces to 3.38 million ounces.

The public offering of 12 million gold shares to raise at least \$540 million, coinciding with the announcement by Amex Gold that it may offer 9 million units, possibly raising \$175 million, depressed mining analysts.

They said the flood of more gold shares on to the market would do little for sentiment when gold and gold shares were beginning to attract wider interest because of Gulf events.

Other gold companies are also said to be planning to raise capital by share offerings, which could mean an overall \$1 billion call for fresh investment funds in the gold sector.

Comment, page 23

## Pound hit as Japanese raise interest rate to 6%

By RODNEY LORD, ECONOMICS EDITOR

A RISE in the Japanese discount rate yesterday fuelled speculation of other increases. High-yielding currencies like sterling weakened and the average value of the pound fell 0.6 on the effective rate index to 96.2 after touching 96.1.

Sterling was also affected by a strong recovery in the dollar which dealers said was over-sold. In spite of the Japanese rate increase, the dollar rose against all the major currencies. Sterling closed down 2.65 cents at \$1.921 and 1.55 pence at DM3.0139.

On the domestic front, growth in the money supply shows signs of receding to the target range of 1 to 5 per cent. If City estimates for the narrow measure M0 of 4.9 per cent growth for August based on the weekly note issue are confirmed, it will be the first

time the figures have come into the target range since the present one was set in Budget 1988, apart from the period of last September's postal strike.

City analysts do not expect John Major, the Chancellor, to put interest rates up in Britain, though rises elsewhere could delay a fall. Money market rates were little changed with the bill/bond 3-month interbank at 14 1/4%.

Nor is sterling expected to fall far while the prospect of imminent accession to the exchange rate mechanism of the European monetary system remains. Keith Skeoch of James Capel said: "I can see the pound drifting below DM3 but I do not think you will see a sterling crisis with the Gulf situation as it is and hopes of ERM membership continue. When the Gulf crisis is over

we shall have to join very quickly."

The Japanese discount rate rose by 1/4 per cent to 6 per cent. Tokyo analysts said it is still below market rates and a further increase is possible.

Oil prices rallied on demand in New York. In London October Brent, which hit a low of \$25.20 a barrel, moved ahead to \$25.99 for a net gain of 35 cents.

Confident overnight performances in New York and Tokyo enabled the FT-SE 100 index to jump 40 points in early trading, but a 24-point fall in resumed trading on Wall Street saw prices in London close below best. The FT-SE index ended the session 27.9 higher at 2,153.6.

Comment, page 23  
Stock markets, page 24

## Gulliver's view on Guinness

THE Guinness affair had many losers, not least the shareholders of Argill, the Scottish food firm that lost the bid battle for Distillers to the Irish brewing giant. In an article for *The Times*, James Gulliver, chairman of Argill at the time, tells how his management team would have won the takeover if their opponents, led by the now-jailed Ernest Saunders, had not rigged the share offer.

Gulliver's version, page 23

**Petitions on Lui**  
Petitions to wind up four subsidiaries of London United Investments, the failed insurance underwriter, were presented in court yesterday in the first step towards starting schemes of arrangement for the companies. Lui was placed into administration in July. Schemes of arrangement are to be prepared for Kingscroft, El Paso, Lime Street and Mutual Reinsurance to allow claims of more than 100,000 policyholders to be met.

**Pentland warning**  
Pentland Group has given warning that the outlook for the rest of the year is "uncertain" after pre-tax profits of £33.1 million (£39.3 million) for the half year to end-June. The sale of Pentland's stake in Reebok has been "suspended" until stock market conditions improve. *Tempest*, page 23

## Mortgage venture planned

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER City banking analyst and the chairman of Tomkins, the industrial group, have joined forces to raise £100 million to form the Bank of Edinburgh. The bank, once under way, intends to buy small and medium-sized building societies in order to form a major mortgage and savings institution.

Noble & Co, the Scottish mini-merchant bank, is finalising a private share placement to raise £30 million from

international financial institutions. The leader is Scottish Amicable, which is said to be taking a one-third stake.

The Bank of Edinburgh also has £70 million in provisional long-term debt facilities. If it succeeds in raising the money, it will have the resources to buy societies with assets of £2 billion.

The chief executive is Ian Murray, a former analyst with Wood Mackenzie and a director of Fulton Prebon, the

money broker. Michael Moore, Tomkins' chairman, will be the bank's chairman.

Philip Court, the former chief executive of Birmingham Midshires building society, will be development director.

The Bank of Edinburgh is planning to target societies in the Midlands and the North of England, and offer them merger packages. It will concentrate on traditional building society products, savings accounts and mortgages.

## Thorough review ordered by Rank of Mecca's books

By MARTIN WALLER

RANK Organisation, which bid £500 million for Mecca Leisure Group this summer, is requiring Mecca's auditor, Coopers & Lybrand, to carry out a thorough review of Mecca's books and figures for the six months to end-June, before the company takes control.

There have been suggestions in the City that Rank may have found some unpleasant surprises in the books of Mecca, which was heavily encumbered with debt.

But this was strongly denied by Michael Gifford, Rank's chief executive, who said last night: "Mecca is entirely as I expected it to be."

The review will help decide whether the interim dividend on Mecca's convertible preference shares will be paid, the company said. Interim figures released on September 25 will include the board's decision on that.

Mr Gifford said the auditors will have to consider whether they feel it is necessary to make write-downs on the

assets acquired by Rank and, if so, whether sufficient earnings are left to pay the preference dividend.

Only one asset, Maxim's Casino Club, has been sold by Mecca. Mr Gifford said, out of a total disposal programme intended to total £250 million before Rank took control. £12 million was sold for about £12 million less than book value.

Mr Gifford said Mecca's performance continued to be acceptable to the new owner. He added: "We paid a figure that we thought was reasonable with respect to the future trading profits that would be generated by the business."

He said the Mecca convertible was offering a 20 per cent yield before the bid, implying that the dividend would not be paid. It is likely, given Mecca's parlous financial state, that this will still be the case.

About 17 per cent of convertible holders still have until October 15 to accept the Rank offer.

## Italian connection to GRE's loss

By NEIL BENNETT

GUARDIAN Royal Exchange, the composite insurer, has been forced to set aside £30 million to strengthen reserves at its Italian subsidiary, bought last year.

This, combined with claims of almost £100 million from the January storms and continuing losses in Irish motor insurance, pushed the group into a £83.8 million loss for the six months to June.

This contrasts with a pre-tax profit of £100.1 million in the first half last year. The group is, however, increasing its half-year dividend by a tenth to 4.4p.

GRE bought Cidas and Sipea, its Italian motor insurers, and Polaris Vita, a life company, in a joint venture with San Paolo di Torino, Italy's leading bank. They made a loss of £46 million in the first half, after an underwriting shortfall of £52.2 million.

The group paid £27 million for its half-share in the companies last year and they made a £19.7 million loss then. San Paolo is responsible for half the losses. Sid Hopkins, GRE's new chief executive, said that only £20 million of the underwriting loss in the first half referred to trading. The rest was added to reserves. Mr Hopkins refused to give details of the problems, but said it was understandable they had not come to light in a due diligence survey by Coopers & Lybrand before the acquisition.

"There is no reason to suppose they did their job other than thoroughly," he said. "I am not implying anything of a nasty nature." The group will give more details of the problems at the end of the year when it completes a review of the companies.

Mr Hopkins said it was "a matter of some regret that the results are so poor. What gives me even greater disappointment is the operations in three territories should mask other very good points indeed."

GRE's largest losses occurred in Britain, where it suffered an underwriting deficit of £123 million. The group received 120,000 claims for storm damage, although the loss was reduced to

£39 million due to reinsurance policies. A rise in claims created a £28 million loss in motor insurance, while the company also received 13 claims worth more than £500,000 for large commercial fires, some suspected arson attacks.

The group managed to reduce losses in its Irish motor insurance business by 15 per cent to £15.6 million. Of this, £5 million came from FMPA, GRE now controls 35 per cent of Ireland's motor insurance market.

Mr Hopkins also warned shareholders that the group was making an extraordinary provision of £70 million at the end of the year to cover claims from professional indemnity insurance that the company wrote for American accountants until 1985.

In contrast to the underwriting losses, GRE's investment income rose 15 per cent to £155 million, due to the group's decision to move 11 per cent of its reserves into cash at the end of last year.

Tempest, page 23

## Examiner named for Goodman

By A CORRESPONDENT

THE Goodman Group, which has sought protection from its creditors, yesterday defended its record shortly after an examiner was appointed by the Dublin High Court to investigate its affairs. Goodman spoke of its "outstanding" record in the difficult meat industry for 30 years.

Peter Fitzpatrick, a partner of the Dublin office of Coopers & Lybrand, was made examiner. His appointment protects the company from its creditors for up to four months while he investigates the possibility of restoring the business to commercial health.

Goodman has total short-term unsecured borrowings of Ir£460 million (£408 million). Its main problems sprang from an Ir£180 million debt for beef supplied to Iraq and losses incurred on the purchase of stakes in Unigate and Berisford.

Goodman defends the purchase of the shareholdings. It was unaware of the problems at Berisford, it says. "The Goodman group still believes that the strategy was right at the time."

In addition, the group blames its problems on the BSE "mad cow disease" scare, which reduced demand for beef in Britain and the EC, and the cancellation of export credit insurance by the Irish authorities.

## Parkfield progress talks

CREDITORS of Parkfield Group, the entertainment and engineering conglomerate that went into administration last month, will meet in Birmingham today to learn what progress Cork Gully, the administrator, has made in restructuring the group (Martin Waller writes).

The creditors are likely to be asked for their continued sup-

port while Cork Gully attempts to sell the profitable parts of the group and decides what to do with the estimated 10 million videocassettes the group owns, many of which are probably almost worthless.

The alternative is liquidation, they will be told, in which case few of the group's total debts of £310 million will be repaid.

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THE POUND		
US dollar	1.9210 (-0.0265)	
W German mark	3.0088 (-0.0208)	
Exchange index	96.2 (-0.6)	
STOCK MARKET		
FT 30 Share	1687.9 (+29.0)	
FT-SE 100	2153.6 (+27.9)	
New York Dow Jones	2608.68 (-23.77)	
Tokyo Nikkei Ave	25669.98 (+775.17)	
Closing Prices ...	Page 25	
Major indices and	major changes	Page 24
INTEREST RATES		
London: Bank Base	15%	
3-month interbank	15-14 1/2%	
3-month eligible bills	14 1/2%-14 3/4%	
US: Prime Rate	10%	
Federal Funds	8%	
3-month Treasury	7.46-7.44%	
30-year bonds	97%-97 1/2%	
CURRENCIES		
London:	New York:	
£ \$1 9210	\$ £ 0.5225	
£ DM 0.0086	\$ DM 1.5693	
£ Sfr 2.4915	\$ Sfr 1.2956	
£ FF 10.0871	\$ FF 6.5510	
£ Yen 147.10	\$ Yen 144.25	
£ Index 96.2	\$ Index 95.2	
ECU 10.8667	\$ ECU 10.7122	
£ ECU 1.4561	\$ ECU 1.3681	
GOLD		
London Fixing:		
AM \$385.80 pm-\$389.75		
close \$388.75-389.25 (202.00-202.50)		
New York:		
Comex \$389.50-390.00		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent (Oct) ...	\$26.05/bbl (\$24.90)	
* Denotes latest trading price		
TOURIST RATES		
	Bank	Travel
Australia \$	2.462	2.392
Austria Sch	22.00	20.70
Belgium Fr	25.00	21.00
Canada \$	2.308	2.183
Denmark Kr	13.02	11.33
Finland Mk	7.40	7.00
France Fr	113.00	105.00
Germany DM	3.13	2.95
Greece Dr	304	288
Hong Kong \$	14.85	14.85
Ireland Ir	11.73	11.03
Italy Lit	2036	1922
Japan Yen	253.50	276.50
Netherlands Gld	3.52	3.32
Norway Kr	12.14	11.44
Portugal Esc	276.25	260.25
South Africa R	5.25	4.75
Spain Ptas	166	162
Sweden Kr	11.48	10.87
Switzerland Fr	2.00	1.90
Turkey Lira	5200	4800
USA \$	2.015	1.905
Yugoslavia Dnr	25.50	19.50

Figures for small denominations bank only as supplied by Barclay Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.  
Retail Price Index: 126.8 (July)

OS



Hanson does not often find itself boxed in a corner, but its decision to back down from a commanding 49.1 per cent stake in America's Newmont Mining Corporation, originally acquired in the 1989 Consolidated Gold Fields takeover, to a 26 per cent stake smacks of a delicate retreat from an unrewarding position.

Newmont is right to follow the market adage "When the ducks quack, feed them" in offering fresh shares for sale at a time when investment interest in gold shares has been rekindled by Gulf events.

This year, Newmont sold Peabody — coincidentally to Hanson. This week, Newmont sold its Australian associate, in a further reduction of debt which benefited Hanson.

Now Newmont is offering 3.6 million new shares to raise more funds which will be further ammunition in the fight against its debt burden.

Hanson's part in the Newmont exercise is intriguing. Hanson is offering for public sale 8.4 million on its own Newmont holding, with warrants, which,

depending on Newmont's offer price, will bring an upfront payment of about \$385 million, with a further notional \$300 million to follow in time.

The timing of Hanson's sale hardly tallies with its uncharacteristic reminder to the world only two weeks ago of the group's interest in gold. Through Gold Fields Mining Corporation, Hanson's direct interest in proven and probable gold reserves totalled 7.41 million ounces.

In addition, Hanson laid claim to 49 per cent of the 20.7 million ounces that fall in the proven and probable class under Newmont's umbrella. That claim now falls back to 26 per cent of 20.7 million ounces, or 5.38 million rather than 10.14 million ounces.

Hanson was not alone in recognising that Newmont had to reduce its debt burden in order to improve its financial health — a process in which Hanson would benefit. The sale of Peabody this

## Hanson beats a delicate retreat

### COMMENT

year, coincidentally to Hanson, was the start.

However, it is Hanson's style to move towards, rather than away from, its investments. But then when Hanson moved into Newmont it inherited a "standstill" agreement which would have frustrated its usual takeover ambitions. It also only accounted for its Newmont stake on a dividend receipt basis, which made its yield look unacceptably thin.

It would not have been easy to sell on Newmont to another group, and Hanson looks to have found its match in Newmont, and thus its retreat.

Hanson admits that the 8.4 million share sale allows it to turn into cash part of its holding.

If Hanson cannot get its way with Newmont, then its remaining 26 per cent Newmont

stake may equally prove to be a weak hold. Other share offerings by gold mining companies are in the wings, and the prospect of up to \$1 billion of fresh funds being called for will only depress sentiment.

### Japan moves

Japan has at last raised its discount rate, and sterling yesterday sank back. The connection between the two events is tenuous, but the feeling that interest rates in Britain are about to be cut — always a dubious assumption — has taken a knock.

In itself, the rise in Japan's discount rate is a fairly small earthquake on the monetary Richter scale. A rise has been expected for months and has only

been delayed by the fall in Japanese share prices. At 6 per cent, up ¼ of a percentage point, the discount rate is still well below market rates of about 7½ per cent, raising the possibility of another increase before long.

Although the move gains significance from being made when the yen was rising, the increase is really only confirming events which have already taken place.

Japan's move has, however, served to refocus attention on the interest rate outlook worldwide. In America and Britain, the question is whether interest rate cuts have been postponed rather than whether increases will be triggered. But in West Germany, the likelihood of an increase remains high. The Japanese move could be an excuse, though hardly a reason in itself. German rates are already well above Japanese ones and the mark has appreciated a long way against the yen in recent months. The

reasoning in Germany has much more to do with its domestic situation. Although monetary expansion seems to be coming back under control, unification has always threatened to be inflationary — hence the Bundesbank's clumsy attempt to dictate the terms.

In the past few weeks, the fiscal burden which unification will place upon Germany has become clearer, and although resistance to tax increases may be weakening, the inflationary potential of unification has grown.

Whether and when the Bundesbank will make a move is still difficult to predict. Showing Helmut Kohl and the French, who are pressing for lower interest rates, who is in the driving seat might also have attractions. But with unification in the offing, raising rates would have strong political overtones.

Interest rates in Britain will not go up even if German rates do, but sterling will fall. For a government seeking membership of the European exchange rate mechanism that could be no bad thing.

WHEN Mr Justice Henry started his summing up on August 16, he urged jurors to dismiss from their minds any suggestions that the Guinness affair was a victimless crime.

He pointed out that, if the Crown's case was right, as it has now been proved to be, there were four groups of losers. In fact, there were not four, there were at least six. Let me start with the Argyll losers.

The shareholders, both large and small, were certainly deprived of a victory that would have been ours if we had been playing on a level surface. During the last month of the bid, through March and April of 1986, the Guinness share price was usually stable in the morning, but rose fairly sharply every afternoon.

It indicated to me overseas buyers and so it was proved to be. We used to wonder at Argyll why Guinness had not increased its offer after we raised ours in early 1986. Initially, our offer was worth more, but as the share rigging got under way, the value of our offer was left behind.

Today, Guinness's market worth is £4.8 billion. The Argyll share price has increased by 40 per cent since Guinness won, and the Guinness price by 100 per cent. Argyll lost the opportunity to develop and exploit many of the 79 brands of Scotch whisky that Distillers had when we bid for it.

Argyll had then and has now first class management and the ability to have exploited the opportunities in an almost identical manner to that which the present Guinness management is doing. Before the bid, we researched Distillers for 18 months.

It was clear that in order even to discuss bid financing with our advisers, we would need to demonstrate an understanding of the industry and a clear business plan. My team went back 15 years with the Distillers accounts and up to ten years with their principal trading subsidiaries. With a total of about 80 trading subsidiaries we were able to prepare a group consolidation which gave us a good feel for the contribution of individual profit centres. In

## How Scotland lost out to back-street Hammersmith

addition, we scrutinised analysts' reports and trade and financial press cuttings back to the 1960s. Drink industry reports were obtained, and independent market research on Distillers' products and markets were commissioned. On the pretext of Argyll examining new market opportunities, we also looked at its industrial relations.

Finally, we made a pavement inspection of Distillers' properties. After checking trade directories and *Yellow Pages*, a small team photographed and produced a report on every Distillers' property we could find.

At the end of the day, we had more than 500 colour slides. There is no better way of obtaining a fast impression of a business than to look at its properties. We then prepared a presentation. This was used first for meetings with our home-side merchant bankers and brokers and also with our lending bankers — we put together loans of £700 million

— and finally with our institutional core underwriters.

A letter in *The Times* talks about Ernest Saunders identifying the opportunity. He did not. It was identified, analysed and a strategy developed by Argyll. His bid was entirely defensive. Having bought Bell's, he found he had over bid for a brand with no international franchise.

Argyll management were losers. They lost the opportunity to develop what would have been the most important alcoholic drinks business in the world, with enormous unrealised potential. We reviewed the world spirits market and then moved on to Scotch whisky and gin markets. Distillers was examined in depth and followed up by a fundamental valuation and a critical performance assessment. We then explained Argyll's management approach to Distillers and the anticipated effect.

The bid for Distillers by Argyll was an enormously complex exercise in research, analysis, and the development of a strategy for the bid, and post the merger. Apart from an Argyll central team of about eight people, there were four merchant or investment banks, five law firms, our auditors, three brokers, public relations advisers, *Searchi* as advertising agency and our share registrars to advise share movements daily. Recent events have confirmed, in my view, we would have won had we not been cheated. Scotland also lost. Though Ernest Saunders talked of a Scottish headquarters, he went back on

his word. Today, the Distillers head office (or United Distillers as it is now known and includes Bell's) is in a multi-storey building near the Hammersmith flyover, West London. Scotland lost because a head office brings with it and supports a whole range of activities such as research and development, decisions on advertising and brand promotion, top and senior management with their generally beneficial effects on the local business community, the ultimate authority on capital expenditure and the support of many other services.

Distillers shareholders could have been even bigger losers. The extraordinary arrangement by which Distillers agreed to pay Guinness's bid costs in the event of the bid failing was unprecedented, and could have cost Distillers shareholders much more than £25 million if they had lost.

On the question of fees, it is ludicrous to suggest they were commercially defensible. While fees for this magnitude are not unknown in large bids, they are paid to corporate finance departments of merchant banks which have sizeable teams working through out the length of the bid. The fees paid to the individuals in the Guinness trial for very little effort were totally untenable.

Towards the end of the bid, Guinness shares were being bought at more than 700p, so today those buyers will be seeing little gain on their investment, and such buyers, have every right to feel aggrieved.

Finally the greatest victim may have been the City itself. There is a nationwide perception that this was the "tip of the iceberg". I do not believe such practices were widespread in 1986, although the "ethos of the time" produced strong commitments on the parts of boards of directors and merchant banks to win at almost any cost. The Guinness bid was unprecedented by the scale of share rigging and the number of people involved. Fortunately, I doubt we will ever see its like again.

JAMES GULLIVER  
Former chairman  
Argyll Group



Gulliver: 'would have won'

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Harmony duet with WI Carr

ALUN Evans, son of opera singer Sir Geraint, joins WI Carr (Investments) on Monday as director of client services. Three months ago, Evans, aged 36, was made redundant as Capel-Cure Myers' director in charge of new business. At WI Carr, Evans — described by friends as a "still tough rugby player, often arriving at work with black eyes" — will be reunited with one-time Capel partner Fred Carr. "He was schooled by me and James Poole — nowadays head of corporate finance at James Capel — when we were all at CCM," says Carr, now director of business development at WI Carr. "I spent a lot of time with him in the Middle East and shared many hotel rooms with him. You get to know a bloke very well when you share a room and he is a very good bloke, indeed." Although not as fine a singer as his father, Evans never the less has a pleasant baritone voice, and staff at WI Carr can look forward to a novel cabaret act at the Christmas party — a duet sung by him and Carr. "We once dressed up as two jolly Father Christmases, singing carols and collecting money outside the stock exchange," Carr recalls.

### Focus on saving

CORPORATE public relations men Rob McIvor has devised an unusual way of saving his clients' money.

Demonstrating heartwarming faith in the Post Office, his PR firm, City Focus, has begun posting financial results to City journalists the evening before the results are due to be released to the stock exchange, instead of using a motorbike courier on the announcement day. "You can only do it when you are certain that clients are not likely to change their minds overnight," says McIvor, who concedes that his methods are not entirely risk-free. "But we estimate that it can save clients up to £200 in courier fees."

### Brief for pay rises

THE spectre of job losses in the Square Mile is, it seems, of little consequence to the City's ranks of corporate lawyers, who have found their services more in demand than ever. Top of the list, unsurprisingly given the present economic climate, are insolvency lawyers, many of whom can now

command salaries of up to £40,000 within three years of qualifying. "There is a strong demand for insolvency specialists at the moment," says Mark Gilbert, a director of Robert Walters, the legal recruitment consultant, adding that corporate advisers in takeover bids have lost their crown as top earners. The going rate for partners of medium-sized legal practices ranges from £70,000 to £100,000, while partners at Clifford Chance, Freshfields and other big London firms can earn anything from £200,000 to £400,000, depending on how much they generate in fees. But while young insolvency specialists may have seen their salaries rise 24 per cent in the past year, from £32,000 to £40,000, Gilbert says that elsewhere in the profession increases have been much more modest, with profit sharing schemes being offered increasingly as an alternative to more cash.

### Bitter sweet

DOMINIC Cadbury of the confectionery and soft drinks group confesses to being "very frustrated" by Saddam Hussein's march into Kuwait. Because it was only last year that Cadbury Schweppes was, after 14 years, removed from the Arab boycott list — "And I never did know why we were on it in the first place", Cadbury says. However, the company is pressing on with a joint venture in Egypt, where it is in partnership with Kuwait Foods. But could not Cadbury pick up market share

by selling its goods to the American troops in Saudi Arabia? "Nice thought," Cadbury replies, "but I gather the Americans prefer Hershey bars."

ANOTHER gem from the Australian Taxation Office. It received a tax return from a man who listed his occupation as a "professional killer". There was much consternation until they found he was a pest exterminator.

### Jack's our lad

AFTER speculation that York University might be about to change the name of the Sir Jack Lyons concert hall after the millionaire philanthropist was found guilty of charges in the Guinness trial, a spokesman for the university says it has decided not to take any such action. Simon Underwood, from the registrar's department, admits that the vice-chancellor and the head of the music department have discussed the matter, but says: "We do not intend to change the name. We remain grateful to Sir Jack and his charitable trust for the very important contribution he has made." A Yorkshireman, Lyons gave the university £120,000 in the late 1960s. "That money was crucial in the building of our music department and the concert hall," Underwood explains.

SIGN in a New York psychiatrist's consulting room: "Satisfaction guaranteed — or your money back."

CAROL LEONARD

## GRE loses its way in Rome

ANYONE who has crossed the Via Veneto in Rome and survived could have told Guardian Royal Exchange that insuring Italian motorists was not a good idea. Undaunted, it paid £27 million for 50 per cent of three Rome insurance companies last year in a joint venture with San Paolo di Torino, the bank. Now the Italian job has blown up in its face.

The venture suffered a £46 million loss in the first half as serious problems with its reserves and data processing systems began to emerge.

Sid Hopkins, GRE's new chief executive, is tight-lipped about the cause of the problems but does not blame Coopers & Lybrand, which conducted the due diligence. Coopers has returned to carry out a full review of the business, raising the fear that there will be further losses, and provisions at the year-end.

GRE's Italian woes even stole the limelight from its £122.6 million interim underwriting loss in Britain, up from just £900,000. While the exceptional storm damage caused £39 million of this, losses in almost every other class of business suggest that either GRE's premiums or its

customer base need urgent attention.

The group is likely to remain £20 million in the red for the full year, though a likely dividend of 12.65p puts the shares, at 193p, on a prospective yield of 8.7 per cent. This is about the only attractive feature of a company which needs to get its house in order at home and abroad.

### Slough Estates

THE interim statement from Slough Estates, one of Britain's largest industrial landlords, was disappointing enough to knock 13p off an already depressed share price.

A number of reasons lie behind the fall. First, there was £12.9 million of unexpected provisions, taken above the line and resulting in the company's property trading activities reporting a £2.3 million loss. Despite higher profits of £50.8 million from Slough's investment portfolio, pre-tax profits for the six months to end-June fell by 20 per cent to £35.5 million. The interim dividend was unchanged at 4.2p a share.

The provisions include an £8.5 million total write-off of a

400,000 sq ft office block in Los Angeles, in which Slough has a 40 per cent stake.

The prospects for Slough's core activity, industrial property, have also been dimming. Anticipation of a recession in manufacturing has hit both tenant demand and investment yield. For that reason Sir Nigel Mobbs, the chairman, believes a reduction in last year's net assets of 464p a share is now inevitable. Pessimists point towards 410p.

But after yesterday's fall, most of the bad news is in the price. Given that they remain among the steepest in the sector, the shares at 226p should reward some patience.

### Pentland

PENTLAND Group's June announcement that its 31.5 per cent holding in Reebok International is under starter's orders has proved a false start.

Weak stock markets have dented Reebok's share price from \$18 to a current \$13.75, and only when conditions improve will the sale go ahead. But even if sold now, Pentland would reap a £260

million profit on its original £77,500 investment, and meanwhile the Reebok stake equates to 72p a Pentland share.

Pentland has turned in pre-tax profits of £33.1 million (£39.3 million) for the half year to end-June, though operating profits from ongoing operations made £7 million against £5.2 million. Pre-tax profits were dented by a net interest charge of £3.94 million compared with a previous £1.74 million interest credit. Life without Reebok will go on, and there is the Speedo acquisition plus Pentland's other direct shoe-related interests to keep the group running.

The pace at which Pentland runs depends in the main on consumer confidence, buying patterns, and the health of the dollar. Pentland's immediate outlook is uncertain. Year-end pre-tax profits could get to the £57 million mark — against which the strict comparison would be £55 million — to put the shares at 60p on a prospective p/e of 6.3. Superficially the shares look attractive, but until the clouds clear, there is little need to sprint for them.

## GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE

### INTERIM RESULTS



## RESULTS FOR THE HALF YEAR

- ★ Premium Income up 17%
- ★ Investment Income up 15%
- ★ Pre Tax Loss £83.8m
- ★ Interim Dividend up 10%

Summary of Estimated Results for the half year ended 30th June 1990

	First 6 months 1990 (unaudited)	First 6 months 1989 (unaudited)	Year 1989* (audited)
Premiums — short-term business	1145.0	976.0	2,004.0
Investment income	154.7	134.8	291.3
Underwriting results — short-term business	(252.3)	(48.7)	(170.3)
long-term business	15.8	14.0	27.3
Profit/(Loss) before taxation	(83.8)	100.1	148.3
Taxation and minorities	(25.0)	39.4	51.2
Profit/(Loss) attributable to shareholders	(58.8)	60.7	97.1
Earnings per share	(6.0p)	7.2p	11.4p
Dividend per share	4.4p	4.0p	11.5p
Shareholders' funds	£1,420.2m	£1,538.3m	£1,641.6m

The Interim Statement 1990 is being posted to ordinary shareholders and an Interim Statement for Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance Group is being posted to preference shareholders and unsecured loan stockholders of Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance plc.

Ordinary shareholders will have the opportunity to take fully paid ordinary shares in the Company, in lieu of cash for the interim dividend payable on 7th January 1991.

\*Extracted from the Company's Accounts for the year 1989 which received an unqualified Auditor's Report and which have been filed with the Registrar of Companies.

GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE LONDON EC4A 3LS TELEPHONE 01-269 1101



## Portfolio

### PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Deas & Newman	Property	
2	Deas & Newman	Property	
3	Deas & Newman	Property	
4	Deas & Newman	Property	
5	Deas & Newman	Property	
6	Deas & Newman	Property	
7	Deas & Newman	Property	
8	Deas & Newman	Property	
9	Deas & Newman	Property	
10	Deas & Newman	Property	
11	Deas & Newman	Property	
12	Deas & Newman	Property	
13	Deas & Newman	Property	
14	Deas & Newman	Property	
15	Deas & Newman	Property	
16	Deas & Newman	Property	
17	Deas & Newman	Property	
18	Deas & Newman	Property	
19	Deas & Newman	Property	
20	Deas & Newman	Property	
21	Deas & Newman	Property	
22	Deas & Newman	Property	
23	Deas & Newman	Property	
24	Deas & Newman	Property	
25	Deas & Newman	Property	
26	Deas & Newman	Property	
27	Deas & Newman	Property	
28	Deas & Newman	Property	
29	Deas & Newman	Property	
30	Deas & Newman	Property	
31	Deas & Newman	Property	
32	Deas & Newman	Property	
33	Deas & Newman	Property	
34	Deas & Newman	Property	
35	Deas & Newman	Property	
36	Deas & Newman	Property	
37	Deas & Newman	Property	
38	Deas & Newman	Property	
39	Deas & Newman	Property	
40	Deas & Newman	Property	
41	Deas & Newman	Property	
42	Deas & Newman	Property	
43	Deas & Newman	Property	
44	Deas & Newman	Property	
45	Deas & Newman	Property	
46	Deas & Newman	Property	
47	Deas & Newman	Property	
48	Deas & Newman	Property	
49	Deas & Newman	Property	
50	Deas & Newman	Property	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

Two winners shared the £8,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mrs Dorothy Hiscok, of Gravesend, Kent, and Mrs Susan Jacobs, of Winchester, Hampshire, each receive £4,000.

### BRITISH FUNDS

1989	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	1988	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%
1	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
2	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
3	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
4	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
5	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
6	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
7	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
8	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
9	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
10	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
11	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
12	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
13	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
14	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
15	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
16	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
17	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
18	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
19	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
20	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
21	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
22	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
23	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
24	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
25	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
26	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
27	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
28	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
29	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
30	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
31	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
32	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
33	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
34	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
35	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
36	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
37	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
38	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
39	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
40	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
41	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
42	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
43	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
44	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
45	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
46	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
47	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
48	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
49	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
50	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS													
	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	1988	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%
1	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
2	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
3	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
4	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
5	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
6	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
7	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
8	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
9	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
10	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
11	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
12	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
13	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
14	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
15	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
16	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
17	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
18	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
19	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
20	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
21	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
22	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
23	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
24	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
25	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
26	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
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32	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
33	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
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35	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
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42	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
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44	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
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46	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
47	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
48	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
49	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
50	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
51	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
52	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
53	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
54	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
55	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
56	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
57	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
58	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
59	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
60	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
61	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
62	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
63	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
64	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
65	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
66	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
67	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
68	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
69	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
70	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
71	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
72	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
73	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
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75	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
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83	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
84	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
85	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
86	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
87	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
88	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
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90	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
91	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
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94	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
95	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
96	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
97	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	0	0
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## Small firms sitting on 'time bomb' of uniform rates

By DEREK HARRIS

SMALL businesses have more to fear from the Uniform Business Rate (UBR) than many realise, according to property consultants, who are reminding businesses that the deadline for lodging appeals with district valuers' offices is September 30.

David Samuel, principal of Samuel & Co. the property consultants based in London, said: "Thousands of businesses are sitting on a time bomb of which they are totally unaware."

A transitional relief scheme is deceptive and hides the often big percentage increases that will have to be paid over the next five years, Mr Samuel said. Increases in

rateable values of between ten times and 20 times are not uncommon, he added.

One of the problems is that the increases being phased in are both compound and cumulative. Hence, a first year increase of 20 per cent plus the effect of inflation might seem fairly innocuous yet could easily lead to an increase of more than 360 per cent by 1994.

A fast food outlet in Notting Hill where rates were £8,000 last year had a demand this year for £10,000. After the phasing-in period the total will rise to £37,000. A shop in London's Fulham Road has had its rateable value increased from £622 to £16,750 and a business in York, North Yorkshire, has been notified of a rise of 70 times its present rateable value.

Another possible effect of steeply raised rateable values is that they will be much higher than present rates. Yet the rateable value is supposed to be equal to the rental value as at April 1988. So landlords might use that as an argument to raise rents.

Other property consultants make the point that if the Gulf troubles push up inflation, the UBR multiplier, set at 34.8p in the pound, could rise to 50p or more next April.

Advice on appeals can be sought from solicitors, accountants, surveyors or property consultants. Mr Samuel can be contacted on 071-736 7170.

**MR FRIDAY**

Ken Ryne

"The nearest I get to fraud is telling clients what a pleasure it is doing business with them."

## Framework for artists' success

By GEOFFREY WESTON

SETTING up in business was the last thing on Colin and Sylvia Dales' minds when they married and set up home in Suffolk. Colin had trained as a painter and Sylvia as a potter and their modest income paid for their simple lifestyle.

Mr Dales supplemented his income from painting by helping with gilding at a picture framer in the nearby town of Sudbury. He managed the company for a time and there learned about running a business.

In just a few years, the couple's artistic talents have provided them with a thriving business, framing, gilding and restoring old frames, furniture and paintings.

In 1984, the Dales decided that their home was too isolated, particularly for their son (the first of two), and they gave up their half-timbered cottage for a shop with living accommodation in Sudbury.

Their aim was to open a gallery to display their work and sell work by other artists.

Soon after opening the gallery, an antique dealer asked Colin to restore some gesso - plaster of Paris - work and gilding, now the backbone of the business.

A workshop was built in the garden. It was intended that half of the workshop would be left out, but work increased so rapidly that they soon needed all of the new building.

A school leaver was then taken on one day a week as an apprentice. He soon became a full-time employee and, two years later, was joined by another. Other youngsters have come and gone, but the first two trainees have proved the



In the picture: Sylvia and Colin Dales with one of the frames they are restoring at Sudbury

most enthusiastic and able, and have stayed. Last year, the Dales bought 1,000 sq ft of workshop space.

Mr Dales is in charge of gilding and finishing, which includes the most subtle toning and antiquing, as well as costing and quoting. Mrs Dales does the specialised paint finishes, such as marbling and dragging, and is in charge of most of the general administration.

In the past five years, turnover has increased seven-fold. Some 70 per cent of it comes from regular trade clients.

The Dales' location is suitable because of the large number of

antique dealers in nearby Long Melford.

The business has recently won an order to restore 60 picture frames for the Bury St Edmunds clock museum.

Mr Dales reports that dealers are bringing in objects they have bought specifically because they know he can repair them. Demand for restoration work continues to grow and has now extended to painting and furniture. As a result, the Dales now work in association with other restorers, to offer a wider service.

The Dales have never needed to advertise. By last February, the

gallery was no longer needed and was closed.

"All finishes are hand done. There are no spray finishes," Mr Dales said.

Mrs Dales added: "It has proved important to train our own employees, in order to meet the best standards and to get them to fit in with our ideas."

Mr Dales said: "We are on the verge of starting repeat production of high-quality frames for mirrors and paintings. The days are over when I could afford to go away and spend five months regilding a glorious eighteenth-century ceiling, as I once did."

### BRIEFINGS

■ BARELY one in four small businesses have made preparations for the single European market, according to a survey by National Westminster Bank. Some do not even think that market is their own fault. Of the 1,200 businesses questioned in the survey, 27 per cent complained about lack of information. Some also complained about having insufficient access to market research. About a third are taking a wait-and-see approach. A quarter believed they would not be affected by the single market in 1992. However, a third thought the single market would bring more trading opportunities, which is about the same level of expectation found among larger companies. Some sectors are preparing more than others. A third of small manufacturers said they had done some preparation. The more positive views about 1992 are among expanding firms and those in the South of England. Some fears emerged from the survey, such as tackling language barriers, financing business development schemes and some small businesses were worried about dealing in foreign currencies.

■ DESPITE tough trading conditions in the South East, which have been affecting smaller businesses especially, the latest business conversion by Lenta Business Space to create small work units is already more than one third full. The Chantry at Westminster Bridge Road, SE1, with 45 workshop, studio and office units, is expected to be ready for occupation in November. Already 17 tenants have signed up and Richard Hinton, operations director, expects that all the units should be let by the time the development is complete.

■ CAMDEN Enterprise, the enterprise agency for Camden in London, helped 388 entrepreneurs formulate business plans last year. The agency, which gives its services free, also advises on grants and loans, marketing, financial management and premises.

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